医龍

[いりゅう]

Team Medical Dragon

University hospitals,
Jepan Medical Association,
and the Administration.....
Serious distrust of medical treatment
finally obliges you to speak
the necessity of reforms.
Your real intention is,
however, to protect your own field.
Patients still have been victims
behind superficial reforms today.

Nogizaka Taro
乃木坂太郎

Nagai Akira
原案 永井 明

7

BIG COMICS

医龍 Team Medical Dragon 7

乃木坂太郎
原案 永井 明

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BIG COMIC SUPERIOR

Team Medical Dragon

朝田×荒瀬! 奇跡のタッグ!!

伊集院、荒瀬、朝田、
三者懸命の救急救命リレーもかいなく、患者は心停止——
伊集院は、DOA(=病院到着時死亡)を宣言する。
しかし、朝田はDOAを否定しメスを執る!
かくして、オペ室で
天才外科医・朝田と天才麻酔医・荒瀬による
奇跡のコンビネーションが実現した!!

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BIG COMIC SUPERIOR

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Chapter 48

Near D.O.A.

PATIENT WENT INTO ASYSTOLE 30 SECONDS AGO!
GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO THE RIGHT CHEST AND RIGHT THIGH! APPROXIMATELY 15 TO 18 MINUTES AFTER INJURY!
SFX: gaa (rush)

2
PATIENT'S D
D.O.A.!

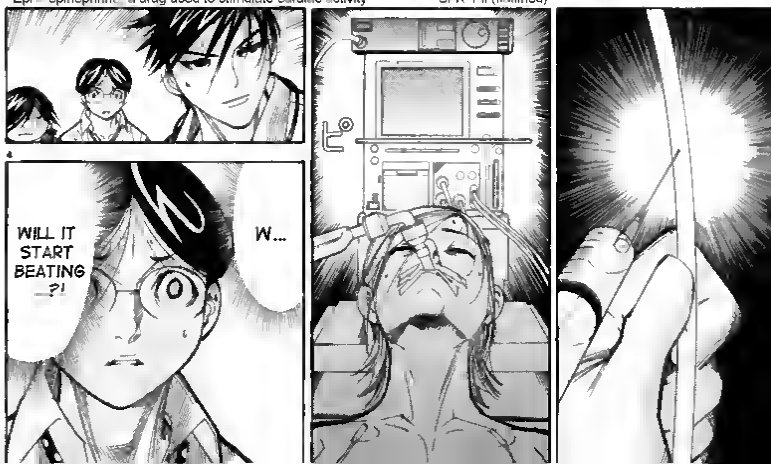
NO ONE TOLD YOU TO CALL THE SHOTS, IDIOT!

SFX pan (slap)

THEN WE STILL HAVE 25 MINUTES UNTIL BRAIN DEATH.
YOU SAID HER HEART STOPPED 30 SECONDS AGO?

*Epi = epinephrine, a drug used to stimulate cardiac activity

SFX: Pii (flatlined)



I CAN ONLY PRESUME THAT SHE MUST HAVE LOST MORE THAN 2000CC!
BUT SINCE SHE'S IN ASYSTOLE...
WE QUICKLY STOPPED THE BLEEDING, SO I THOUGHT SHE'D ONLY LOST 1000CC OR SO...
...
P-PRECISE AMOUNT UNKNOWN!
IIYUUIN! HOW MUCH BLOOD LOSS?!
SFX pi (flatlined)
SFX pii (flatlined)
SFX pii (flatlined)
IT'S NOT GONNA WORK...!

!

SFX pi (blip)

HERE SHE COMES!
LIKE YOU SAID, YOU STOPPED THE BLEEDING EARLY,
ISYUUIN!

THAT'S RIGHT.
ONLY THAT MUCH?
...1000CC?
BLOOD LOSS SEEMS TO BE AROUND 1000CC
THE COLOR OF HER PALPEBRAL CONJUNCTIVA* IS STILL DECENT.

*Palpebral conjunctiva = membrane lining the eyelids

I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT REASON,
BUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT A BULLET'S STILL INSIDE THE PATIENT AND AFFECTING HER HEART IS HIGH!
EMERGENCY SURGERY!
GET THE PATIENT TO THE O.R., STAT!

8

SFX: dn (dash)

GO TAKE A SHIT AND CATCH SOME SHUTEYE!
ONE OF YOU IS FEVERISH AND DIZZY, THE OTHER DRUNK.
DON'T BOTHER.
ダッ

THE ARTERY IN THE RIGHT LEG REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!
I'LL HAVE THE OTHER DOCTOR HANDLE IT WHILE I DEAL WITH THE HEART!
GET ANOTHER DOCTOR!
HEY!

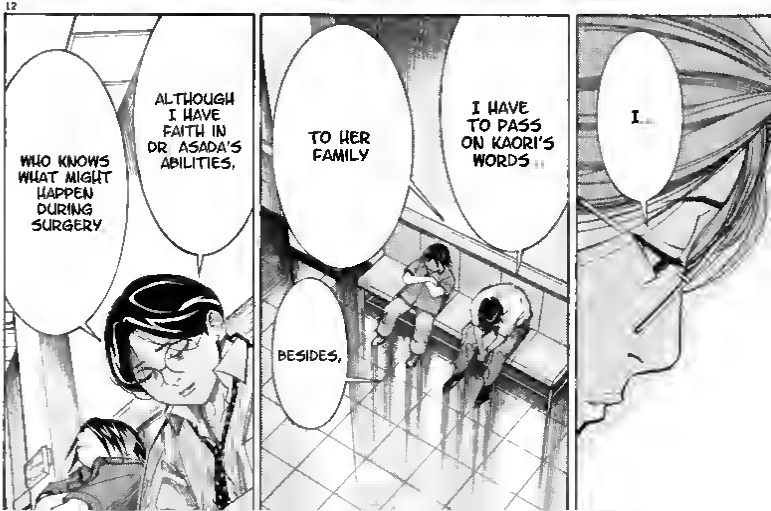
*EM = Emergency Medicine

PROFESSOR KITOU,
WHO'S WORKED IN THE U.S.!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WATCH THE SURGERY?
...
THE BARKEEP AND KAORI'S FAMILY WILL BE HERE
SOON.

SHE GOT SHOT BECAUSE I ASKED FOR A GLASS
IT SHOULD BE ME EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED...
... I'LL HANDLE IT.
I'LL EXPLAIN TO HER FAMILY.

DR. ARASE,
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE O.R


I...
I HAVE TO PASS ON KAORI'S WORDS...
TO HER FAMILY
BESIDES,
ALTHOUGH I HAVE FAITH IN DR. ASADA'S ABILITIES,
WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN DURING SURGERY

WE NEED PEOPLE WITH SKILLS IN THE O R IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS
IF I HAD ANY...
I'D NEVER,
EVER BOW TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU

I WOULD NEVER ASK YOU FOR ANYTHING!
IF PATIENTS COULD BE SAVED BY WILL ALONE

YOU'RE RIGHT

SFX hyoko (lurch)

SFX shuuuu (drifting)

SET THE RETRACTOR!

...
I'M JUST OBSERVING...
YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS
I'M NOT GOING TO PAY YOU FOR THIS ONE
ARASE, I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO HANDLE ANESTHESIA

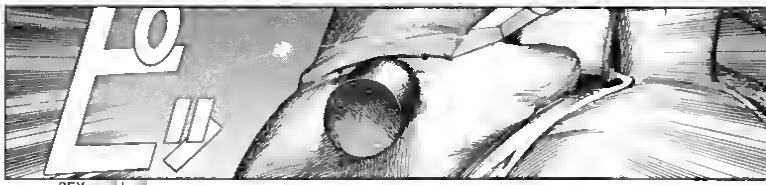
RETRACTOR'S IN!

SFX su (slide)

THE BULLET CAME SIDEWAYS AND LODGED DEEP IN THE RIGHT ATRIUM'S SINUS NODE!
IT DIDN'T PIERCE THE HEART.
HOW IS IT?
...

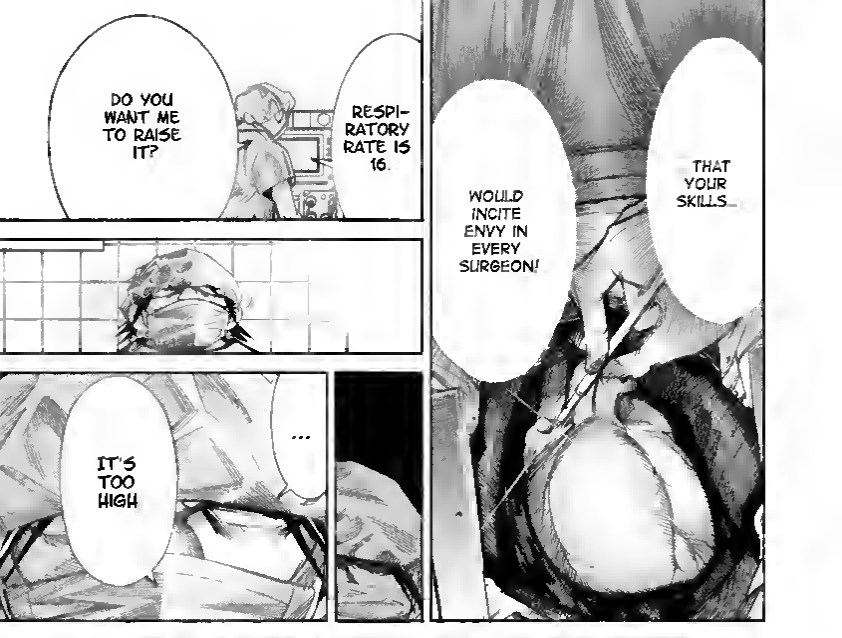
Signal propagates throughout the heart following a pathway similar to this
IS WHERE THE START SIGNAL FOR THE HEART IS FIRST GENERATED
Sinus Node
THE SINUS NODE...
AND CAUSED ARRHYTHMIA!
THE BULLET LODGED THERE.
IS THE CULPRIT THAT STOPPED THE PATIENT'S HEART IN A MERE 15 MINUTES!
THIS...

BEAVER KNIFE!
I'LL GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR FIGURING OUT THE PROBLEM SO QUICKLY
HOWEVER, IF YOU DAMAGE THE SINUS NODE IN ANY WAY WHILE EXTRACTING THE BULLET,
THE DAMAGE WILL CONTINUE TO CAUSE ARRHYTHMIA,
NECESSITATING THE PATIENT TO REMAIN ON A PACEMAKER FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE!
IT'LL BE A COMPLICATED SURGERY,
ASADA!


ピッ

22 SFX: SLICE

NO HESITATION...
IN HIS FINGERS' MOVEMENTS.
WHAT'S THE RESPIRATORY RATE SET TO?
HAHA.
SEEING YOUR SURGERY UP CLOSE, I FINALLY REALIZED...


DO YOU WANT ME TO RAISE IT?
RESPIRATORY RATE IS 16.
THAT YOUR SKILLS...
WOULD INCITE ENVY IN EVERY SURGEON!
...
IT'S TOO HIGH

...
RIGHT NOW, 10 SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

YOU DON'T TRUST MY JUDGMENT?
WHAT...
HA.
...
WH-WHAT?
HEY, YOU, ANESTHESIOLOGIST

I'LL..
YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR ASADA!
TAKE OVER

#etc@irc.irchighway.net | #etc.caetera.net

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Team Medical Dragon

By Akira Nagai & Taro Nogizaka

Chapter 48

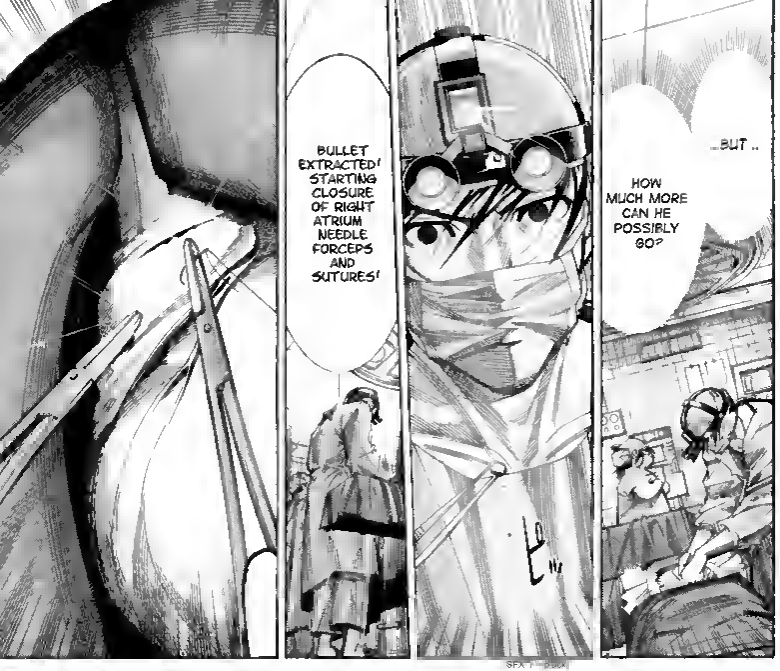
Chapter 49

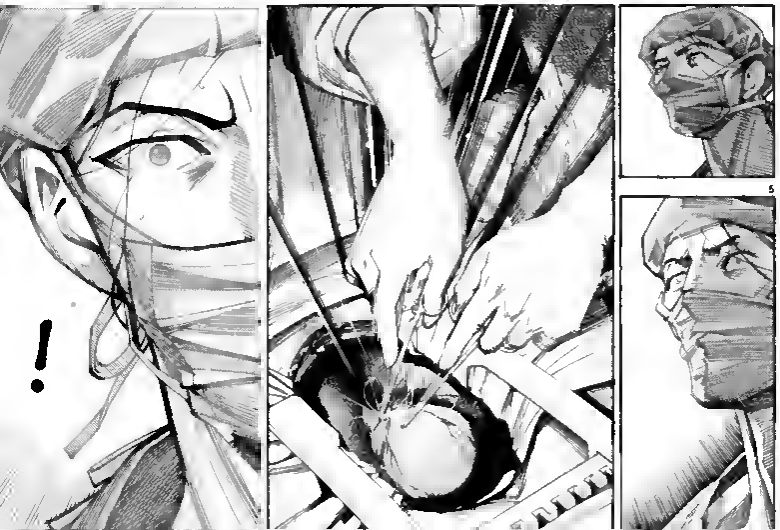
Combination

BIG GUY.
IN RETURN, I'LL LET YOU FOCUS ON YOUR SCALPEL.
BUT DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
I'LL LEND A HAND.
ズズ
SFX Zuzu (shoving) SFX Ga (thud)
ズッ
SFX Zu (shove)
THERE WILL BE ZERO MISTAKES
IF I'M THE ONE MONITORING THE PATIENT,

SO IF THE OPERATION FAILS,
IT MEANS YOUR SKILLS SUCK ASS.
HAHAHA
HA,
HA.

SO...
I CAN FINALLY GO ALL OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE
...
WHAT?
"GO ALL OUT" ...?
...
GRANTED, HAVING A SKILLED ANESTHESIOL-OGIST TAKES A LOAD OFF THE SURGEON,


BULLET EXTRACTED! STARTING CLOSURE OF RIGHT ATRIUM NEEDLE FORCEPS AND SUTURES!
...BUT ..
HOW MUCH MORE CAN HE POSSIBLY GO?


!
5

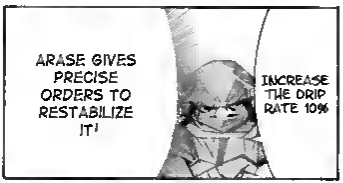
HAS PICKED UP EVEN MORE!
HIS SPEED...
...!

THE BATISTA AND ALL OTHER SURGERIES UP TILL NOW...
SO BY HIS STANDARDS,
IMPOSSIBLE!

WERE NOT PERFORMED..
AT HIS BEST...?!

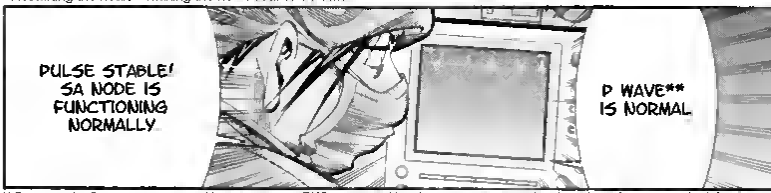
* Blood potassium levels affect cardiac muscle movement. Blood potassium levels above a certain point lead to cardiac arrest.

** Protemol = pharmacological agent that stabilizes heart rate.



INDEED...
IT IS AS THOUGH THEY ARE SHARING ONE MIND WITH THE PATIENT'S HEART AS THE NEXUS...

* Restarting the heart = making the heart beat on its own

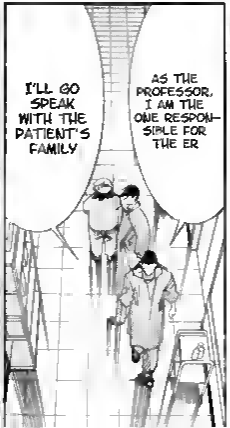


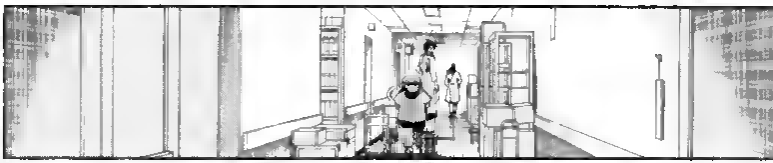
** P wave – the first wave in a normal heartbeat on an EKG, generated by electric potential traveling from the right atrium to the left atrium

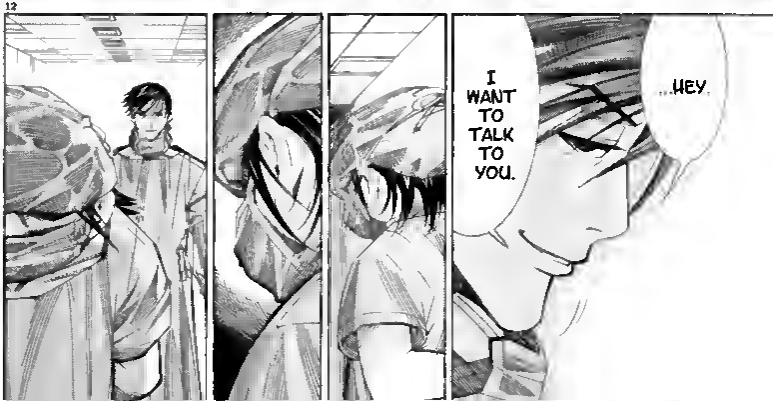
I'LL CLOSE HER UP AND BEGIN SUTURING THE CHEST ENTRY WOUND.
THE BULLET LEFT A SLIGHT ABRASION ON THE RIGHT LUNG, BUT IT DOES NOT REQUIRE SURGERY!

*Z-plasty = a plastic surgery technique that minimizes scarring by closing the wound in a series of z-shaped cuts rather than in a direct line

SFX Gaa (dash)






...HEY.
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

THE 1 MILLION SURGERY FEE—
I HAVE IT.
I MADE IT BY HALF SELLING MYSELF OFF TO EM.

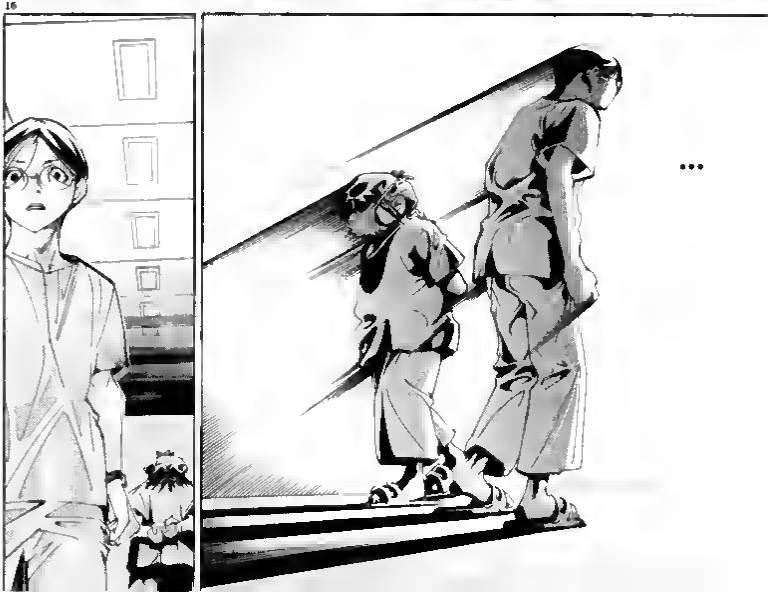
BE THE ANESTHESI-OLOGIST...
FOR THE BATISTA'
I SAID I WANT 3 MILLION IF IT'S FOR RESEARCH.
YOU HAVEN'T GOT ENOUGH.
IF IT'S FOR RE-SEARCH...
RIGHT?

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS
TO THE BATISTA PAPER

YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT DOING ANYTHING ELSE BUT YOUR JOB IN THE O.R., EITHER.

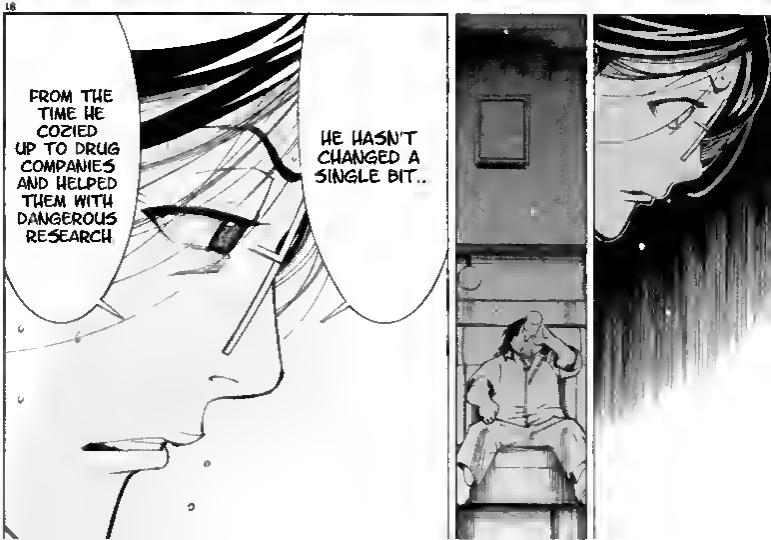
SO,
I'M NOT GONNA PAY YOU MORE THAN 1 MILLION.
...!

I'LL HAVE YOU PROVE IT
IF YOU SAY IT'S NOT FOR RESEARCH,
WHAT-EVER YOU WANT
SHOW IT TO ME
THE VIDEO OF THE LAST BATISTA SURGERY.


...

WH—
WHY'D YOU PICK DR. ARASE?!
HE'S KILLED MANY PATIENTS WITH ANESTHETICS!

!
BECAUSE WE NEED HIS SKILLS...
FOR THE PATIENTS.
EVEN NOW.
ALL HE THINKS ABOUT IS MONEY THAT'S THE KIND OF DOCTOR HE IS!


FROM THE TIME HE COZIED UP TO DRUG COMPANIES AND HELPED THEM WITH DANGEROUS RESEARCH
HE HASN'T CHANGED A SINGLE BIT..

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORGIVE A CROOK IF YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO.
HE'S STILL A CROOK!

AFTER ALL,
HE CHOOSES TO STAY A CROOK BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE CONDEMNED.

HE KNOWS BETTER THAN ANYONE.
THAT HIS SINS CAN NEVER BE FORGIVEN.
THAT'S WHY...
THAT STUBBORN GOAT COULDN'T CHOOSE TO BE ANY OTHER WAY.

I DOUBT...
HE'LL EVER CHANGE HIS MIND.

...
BUT YOU...
YOU NEED TO STAY CLEAN

SFX: Gacha (click)

SFX Ha (laughing)

ARASE JOINED THE TEAM AS THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST AT 1 MILLION PER SURGERY!
SOMEONE
THIS IS AWESOME!
FOUR-EYES IS GREAT!
3 DAYS UNTIL THE SECOND BATISTA SURGERY
LET ME HAVE A COPY!
NOPE

SFX Gata (shaking)

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Team Medical Dragon

By Akira Nagai & Taro Nogizaka

Chapter 49

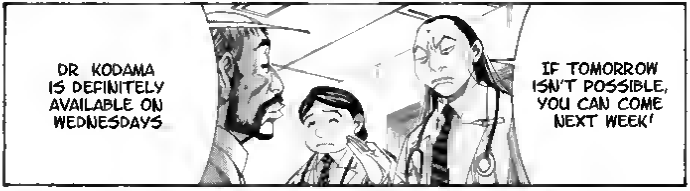
Chapter 50

Malpractice Cover-up

Cardiothoracic Surgery Department
Outpatient Reception Area

I JUST CAN'T TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK TOMORROW.
BUT...
I TOLD YOU TO COME ON WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK.
TERAUCHI-SAN!
TODAY ISN'T A GOOD TIME,

IN ANY CASE,
YOU MUST COME ON WEDNESDAYS WHEN DR. KODAMA'S ON OUTPATIENT DUTY.


DR. KODAMA IS DEFINITELY AVAILABLE ON WEDNESDAYS
IF TOMORROW ISN'T POSSIBLE, YOU CAN COME NEXT WEEK!

SO, PLEASE COME BACK ANOTHER DAY!
BECAUSE, AS YOUR SURGEON, DR. KODAMA UNDERSTANDS YOUR CONDITION THE MOST!
... WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE DR. KODAMA?

PHEW...
ARE YOU SURE HE WASN'T SEEN BY ANY OTHER DOCTORS?!
YES, DR KIHARA.
HE HAD ME IN A COLD SWEAT!
IF YOU HADN'T MADE SUCH A STUPID MISTAKE, THIS TIGHTROPE-WALKING WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY!

DAMMIT!
TWO MONTHS AGO...
DID THE HEAT WAVE MAKE YOUR BRAIN POP A FEW SCREWS LOOSE, KODAMA?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LEFT A SUTURE NEEDLE IN A PATIENT'S HEART!
I I'M SO SORRY!
TH-THE VALVOPLASTY OF THE AORTIC VALVE WENT WELL ENOUGH, BUT...
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG SINCE THE SURGERY, SO THE CHEST WOUND HASN'T CLOSED COMPLETELY
IF WE REMOVE THE SUTURES RIGHT NOW, THE STERNUM CAN BE REOPENED RIGHT AWAY!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE FOR ME TO REMOVE THE NEEDLE!
...
THANK YOU...

I CAN'T TELL WHERE IT IS FROM THE SURFACE...!
REMOVING THE SUTURES ON THE SKIN AND OPENING HIM UP WEREN'T ENOUGH, I'D HAVE TO REMOVE ALL THE SUTURES, EVEN ON THE BLOOD VESSELS THAT WERE JUST OPERATED ON, AND CHECK THEM!

BUT... TO DO SO WOULD POSE TOO GREAT A RISK...
FOR THE PATIENT!
SO...
YOU CLOSED HIM BACK UP WITHOUT FINDING THE NEEDLE?
R-RIGHT
FORTUNATELY, THE PATIENT IS STABLE

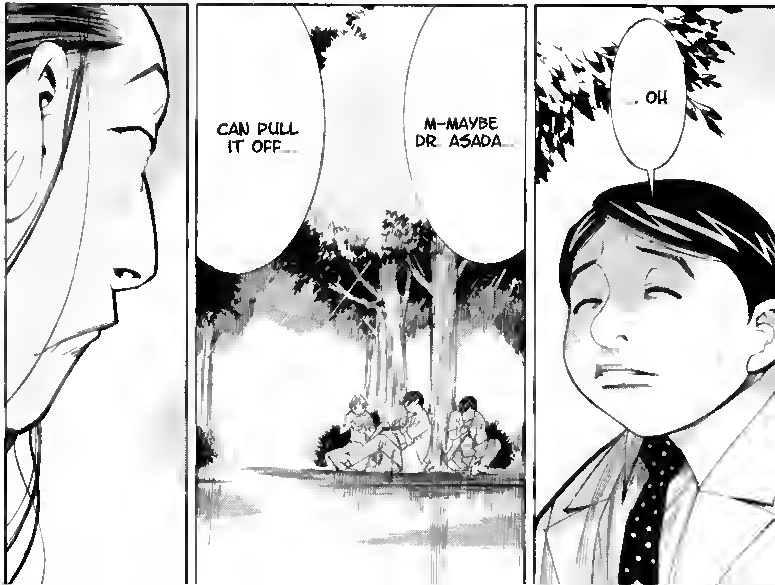
LET'S HOPE...
THAT THE CARDIAC MUSCLE WILL EVENTUALLY ENVELOP THE NEEDLE.
FOR NOW, MONITOR HIM FOR 6 MONTHS AND FIND AN EXCUSE TO OPEN HIM BACK UP
B-BUT
HOW SHOULD WE EXPLAIN THIS TO TERAUCHI-SAN'S FAMILY
Art: Tsun (wordless)

KODAMA-KUN?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
IF IT GOT OUT THAT YOU LEFT A NEEDLE IN A PATIENT'S HEART...?
!
I...!
I WILL HANDLE THIS!
HOW?

IF WE MAKE SURE THAT HE COMES FOR CHECK-UPS ONLY ON DAYS THAT EITHER DR. KODAMA OR I AM ON DUTY, NO ONE WILL EVER FIND OUT!
OF COURSE, WE WON'T LET HIM GO TO OTHER HOSPITALS!
I'LL TELL THE OR NURSE AND OTHER STAFF THAT WE FOUND THE NEEDLE
FURTHERMORE, THE TWO OF US WILL MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL SEE HIM IN FOLLOW-UPS!
ER?
KODAMA-KUN?
HEAR THAT,
WAS THE PERFECT RESPONSE
THAT..

I-IT'D GOTTEN MIXED UP WITH THE GAUZE PADS.
...
WHAT?
YOU DID FIND THE NEEDLE?
...
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
I... I WON'T TELL ANYONE THAT YOU WERE REMISS...
IN YOUR HANDLING OF THE NEEDLES
SO, DON'T TELL ANYONE WHAT HAPPENED TODAY!
GOT IT?
GOT IT?!

Y-YES.
...
DR KIHARA...
YEAH?
IT'S A BIT LATE...
BUT COULDN'T WE REMOVE THE NEEDLE RIGHT AWAY?
TOO DANGEROUS RIGHT NOW


... OH
M-MAYBE DR. ASADA...
CAN PULL IT OFF...

SFX: Paku (chomp)
SFX: Hyoi (grab)
MIKI-SHAN...!
ひょい
パク
!
YOU'RE WEARING THAT T-SHIRT BACKWARDS
OH?
"The Japanese word fo... reasts is a homonym for "father.""
NOR YOUR FATHER(BREAST)!
IS NEITHER YOUR MOTHER
MIKI-SAN
13
WHAT THE HELL...?!
DAMN THAT ASADA
!

QUIT TALKING ABOUT ASADA!
S—
SORRY...

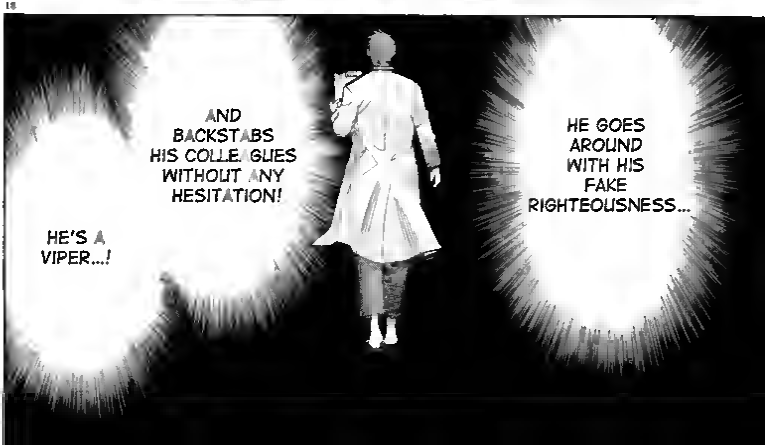
WE CAN'T TURN BACK!
THEY'LL FIND OUT ABOUT THE COVER-UP... THEY'LL KNOW!
IT'LL LOOK TOO SUSPICIOUS IF WE DO 3 SURGERIES IN ONLY 2 MONTHS!
IT'S ONLY BEEN 2 MONTHS SINCE THE SURGERY.
LISTEN.

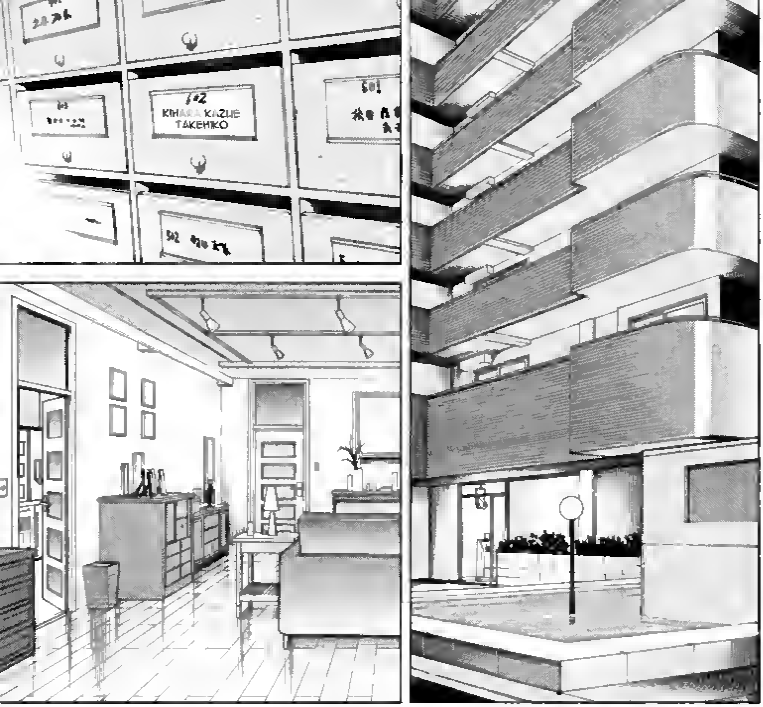
BESIDES
IF YOU FALTER NOW, HOW WILL YOU EVER FACE YOUR PARENTS?
YOUR PARENTS
THEY RUN A SMALL BARBERSHOP, DON'T THEY
...
ISN'T IT YOUR TURN TO REPAY THEM
AFTER THEY WORKED THEMSELVES TO THE BONE FOR YOU?
BUT
EVER SINCE I MADE THAT MISTAKE, MY HANDS SHAKE DURING SURGERY
15

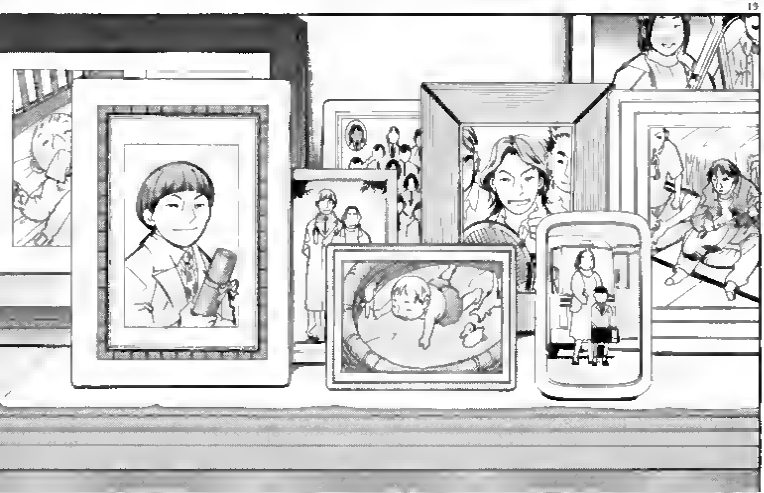
...!
SFX su (move)
I'M SO SCARED...
SFX Kata (tremble)
SFX pita (step)
A SENIOR DOCTOR TOLD ME ABOUT THIS PRESSURE POINT A LONG TIME AGO TO STOP THE SHAKES.
TRY PRESSING THIS SPOT
IF YOU GET SCARED,
... OK.
OK, KODAMA?

WHY DID YOU BRING IN THAT MONEY-GRUBBING ANESTHE-SIOLOGIST TO OUR TEAM?
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO CAUSE THIS MUCH TROUBLE 3 DAYS BEFORE THE BATISTA!
I'M SURE YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME ANYWAY AT THIS POINT ABOUT STAFFING,
BUT WHY ARE YOU WHORING YOURSELF OUT TO EM?!

WE HAVE ONLY 3 DAYS UNTIL THE SECOND BATISTA, AFTER ALL.
I HAVE TO MEET WITH POPS FUJIYOSHI
I'M NOT DONE!
WELL, IT'S JUST HOW IT IS. THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING.
FUCK YOU!
!
ASADA MUST NEVER KNOW!
NO MATTER WHAT,


AND BACKSTABS HIS COLLEAGUES WITHOUT ANY HESITATION!
HE GOES AROUND WITH HIS FAKE RIGHTEOUSNESS...
HE'S A VIPER...!


KIHARA KAZUE
TAKEHIKO



UNGH?

DID I WAKE YOU?
OH,

SFX Kacha (typing)

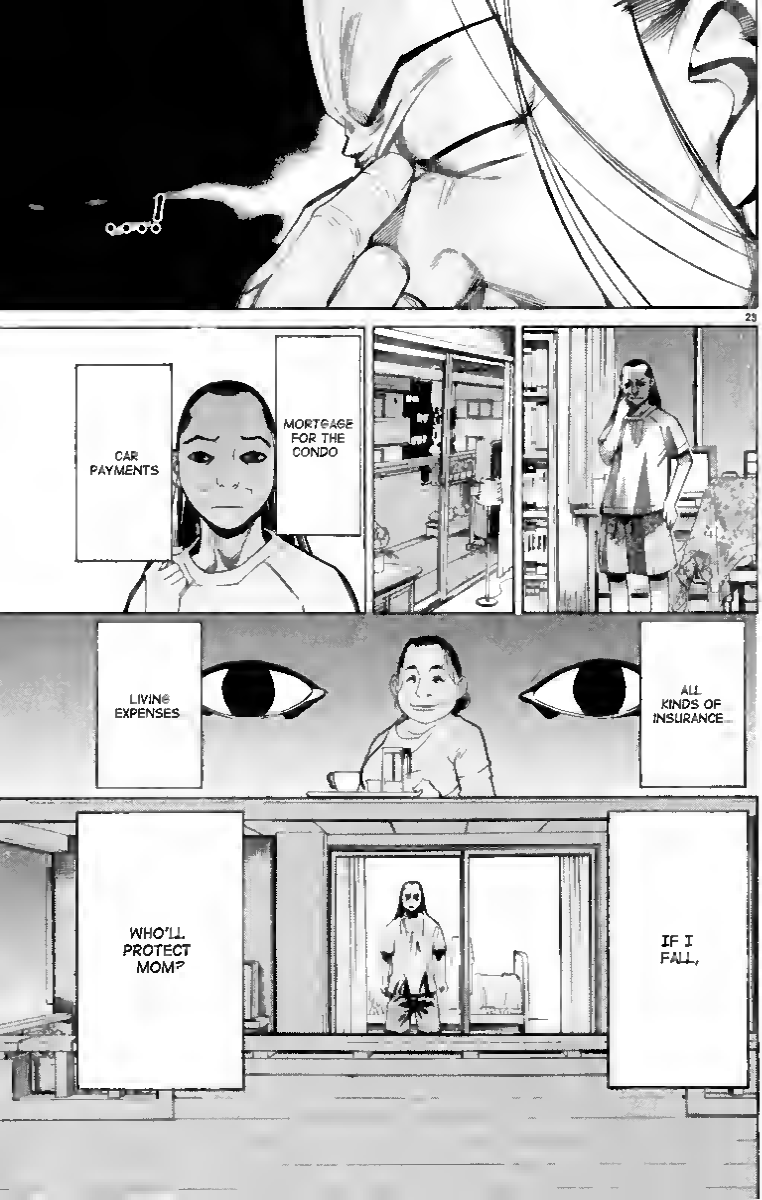
BUT YOU'VE BEEN SO CONSIDERATE, BUYING ME THIS BIG CONDO AND LETTING ME LIVE HERE.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN MARRIED YET.

WHEN YOU MARRY, I'LL MOVE OUT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, THOUGH.

IT'S TOO LATE, ANYWAY...
...

DON'T BE SILLY.

GOOD NIGHT.
ALL RIGHT. GOOD NIGHT, TAKEHIKO.


CAR PAYMENTS
MORTGAGE FOR THE CONDO
LIVING EXPENSES
ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE...
WHO'LL PROTECT MOM?
IF I FALL,

SFX: Gatan (thunk) SFX: Pi (beep)

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Translation:
runpsicat
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Team Medical Dragon

By Akira Nagai & Taro Nogizaka

Chapter 50

Chapter 51

Dropout

DR. KODAMA...
LEFT A SUTURING NEEDLE IN THE PATIENT?
Y-YES
...

2

SFX: Pon (pat)

THERE WERE 41 NEEDLES,
BUT WHEN I RECOUNTED THEM AFTER THE SURGERY, THERE WERE ONLY 40!
DR KIHARA SAID HE LATER FOUND THE MISSING NEEDLE IN THE GAUZE PADS,
BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE

I LOOKED DESPERATELY FOR THE NEEDLE IN THE GAUZE PADS, TOO!
I'M SURE THAT THE NEEDLE'S STILL INSIDE THE PATIENT!
HOWEVER,
SOMETHING LIKE THAT'LL GET FOUND OUT RIGHT AWAY IF THE PATIENT GOES TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL.
AFTER THE SURGERY, DR. KIHARA AND THE SURGEON, DR. KODAMA, WERE INSISTING TO THE PATIENT NOT TO GO TO ANY OTHER HOSPITAL.
...
THEY CLAIMED HE SHOULD STICK TO MEISHIN BECAUSE MORE X-RAYS WOULD BE NECESSARY OTHERWISE, AND IT'D BE DETRIMENTAL TO HIS HEALTH...
AND,
THEY TOLD HIM TO COME ONLY ON DAYS THAT DR. KODAMA WAS ON DUTY!

I AM SURPRISED YOU CAME FORWARD.
THIS MISTAKE IS PARTIALLY YOURS SINCE YOU WERE THE OR NURSE
I SEE. THEY BOXED IN THE PATIENT.
HE HAS TO BE HOSPITAL-IZED...
MY GRAND-FATHER...

I COULDN'T TELL HIM...
WHY...
...
I COULDN'T TELL HIM NO...
THAT HE WANTS TO BE IN MY HOSPITAL.
HE INSISTED...

JUST BECAUSE THE NEEDLE'S LEFT BEHIND IN THE BODY
DOESN'T MEAN IT'S LETHAL
SFX kyu (rubbing)
BUT IF THE NEEDLE IRRITATES A BLOOD VESSEL, A CLOT WILL FORM.
IF THAT CLOT IS JARRED LOOSE INTO THE BLOODSTREAM AND REACHES THE BRAIN..
IN THE WORST CASE,
IT WILL RESULT IN A STROKE.

IF THE NEEDLE SHOWS UP ON THE X-RAY,
I'LL INFORM THE PATIENT FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING, AND RE-OPERATE
SO,
WHAT KIND OF DOCTOR IS THIS DR KODAMA?!

I'LL NEVER REFER A PATIENT TO HIM AGAIN!
DON'T LOOK SO SCARY, POPS

WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE AGAIN?
I CAN'T PUT A FACE TO THE NAME
...
DR KODAMA

...IS A VERY GOOD DOCTOR...
WHO IS WELL TRUSTED BY HIS PATIENTS.
HE'S METICULOUS WITH HIS EXPLANATIONS TO PATIENTS,
AND PATIENTS OFTEN COME TO HIM FOR ADVICE.

Ebisu is a God known for having a good natured smile on his face.

LOTS OF DOCTORS MAKE A FACE AND GET ALL IMPATIENT WHEN PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ASK OBVIOUS QUESTIONS.
BUT DR KODAMA ALWAYS SMILES WHENEVER HE'S WITH HIS PATIENTS.
YOU KNOW,
HE'S GOT A FACE LIKE EBISU*...

EBISU...?
HE'S ESPECIALLY POPULAR WITH THE ELDERLY
HE TOLD ME...
THAT THEY'D OFTEN TRY TO PLAY MATCHMAKER FOR HIM
OHH..
HIM
...I WONDER WHY..
THINGS TURNED OUT THIS WAY...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KODAMA?
COMING ALL THE WAY TO MY PLACE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING...
A..
ABOUT AN HOUR AGO...
...!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?!

I GOT A C-CALL FROM DR ASADA.
H-HE SAID HE'LL RE-OPERATE ON THE PATIENT THIS AFTERNOON...
H...
HE ASKED ME TO BE THERE, TOO
DR KIHARA!
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO ?
DR KIHARA!
SFX biku crin

O-OK, I'VE GOT IT!
DON'T COME TO THE HOSPITAL TODAY!
I'LL ...
GO HAVE A WORD WITH ASADA!

GOOD MORNING ...
OH, DR KIHARA

WHO THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
WU- WU- WU- WHO..
YOU SHOULD JUST LEAVE A NEEDLE OR TWO ALONE!
WERE YOU INVOLVED IN THIS, TOO?
HUH?
YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING COOL OR SOMETHING, ASADA?!
WHO DO YOU WANT TO IMPRESS, HUH?!

NEEDLES WILL JUST GET ENVELOPED BY CARDIAC MUSCLE; NOTHING WILL HAPPEN, ANYWAY!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT 2, 3 MONTHS, THEN FIND SOME CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO RE-OPERATE!
WHAT'S THE NEED TO TAKE IT OUT RIGHT NOW, HUH?!
EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES!
ARE YOU GOING TO CALL US OUT ON EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM?!
KODAMA SHOULD'VE REMOVED THE NEEDLE RIGHT AWAY
...WITH HIS SKILLS...
IT JUST WASN'T POSSIBLE...

BEING A SURGEON WITHOUT SKILL ..
IS ALREADY A CRIME IN AND OF ITSELF

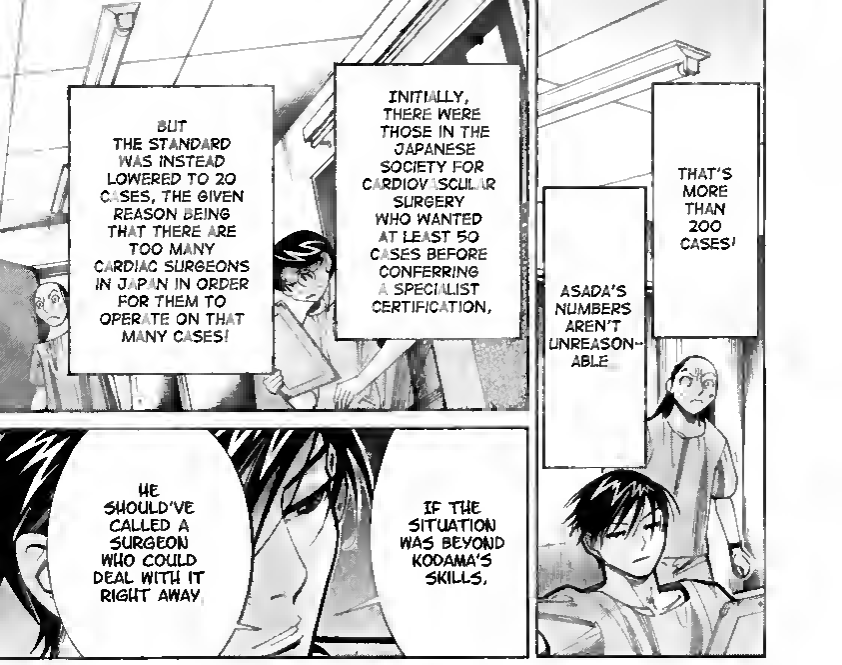
DON'T MAKE ME...
SAY SOMETHING SO OBVIOUS.

...Y...
YOU BAS-TARD...
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE CONFIDENT ABOUT YOUR SKILLS,
YOU GET ON A HIGH HORSE.
KODAMA'S ALREADY OPERATED ON 20 CASES; HE'S A BOARD-CERTIFIED SPECIALIST!
WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH STANDARDS DECIDED BY THE ACADEMIC SOCIETY?!
HAVING NO SKILL IS A CRIME, YOU SAY?!

20 CASES, EH.

HE'S STILL NO EXPERT!
UNTIL HE OPERATES ON 10 TIMES MORE CASES,

AFTER BECOMING LICENSED DOCTORS, THEY MUST OPERATE ON 500 CASES TO BECOME CERTIFIED AS GENERAL SURGEONS.
BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IN AMERICA!
IN JAPAN, ANYONE CAN PERFORM CARDIAC SURGERY AS LONG AS THEY ARE LICENSED DOCTORS.
10 TIMES 20 CASES SO 200 CASES!
A GENERAL SURGEON MUST OPERATE ON 250 CASES AS AN ASSISTANT SURGEON IN ORDER TO BECOME CERTIFIED AS A CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEON.
IN ORDER TO OPERATE SOLO ON THE HEART,
AND THEY CAN BECOME CERTIFIED CARDIAC SURGERY SPECIALISTS BY OPERATING ON JUST 20 CASES.


BUT THE STANDARD WAS INSTEAD LOWERED TO 20 CASES, THE GIVEN REASON BEING THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY CARDIAC SURGEONS IN JAPAN IN ORDER FOR THEM TO OPERATE ON THAT MANY CASES!
INITIALLY, THERE WERE THOSE IN THE JAPANESE SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY WHO WANTED AT LEAST 50 CASES BEFORE CONFERRING A SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION,
THAT'S MORE THAN 200 CASES!
ASADA'S NUMBERS AREN'T UNREASONABLE
IF THE SITUATION WAS BEYOND KODAMA'S SKILLS,
HE SHOULD'VE CALLED A SURGEON WHO COULD DEAL WITH IT RIGHT AWAY

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SHOULD HAVE CALLED ME

OF COURSE.
YOU WOULD'VE TOLD THE PATIENT EVERYTHING...!
IF WE'D CALLED YOU,

IF MISTAKES ARE NOT EXPLAINED TO THE PATIENT AS SUCH,
A REAL TRUST CANNOT BE BUILT BETWEEN THE DOCTOR AND PATIENT
WAS TO TRY AND COVER UP THE MISTAKE.
KODAMA'S MUCH BIGGER SIN..

YOU DESTROY EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH...
KODAMA'S CAREER IS OVER!
WHATEVER YOU SAY,

スッ
SFX: Su (step)
YOU'RE A BAD SEED!
SFX: Ba (dash)

KODAMA...?!
...

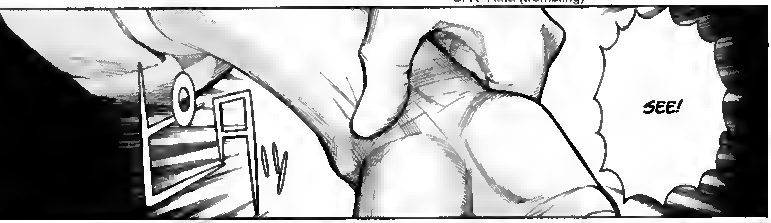
GO HOME!
ASADA INTENDS TO HANG YOU BY THE NECK!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME!
YOU...!
I JUST THOUGHT THAT IF I'M HERE...

...
YOU...
I KNOW WHAT PROCEDURES I PERFORMED AND WHERE...
SO DR. ASADA MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND THE NEEDLE MORE EASILY
...
THAT'D BE A GREAT HELP

WELL,
LET'S GO TO THE O.R.,
DOC KODAMA.

!
THERE IT IS!

SFX Kata (trembling)



SFX Pita (stop)

TO CLOSING HIM UP
MOVING ON...

Today, it was discovered that, in K prefecture's Meishin University Hospital ...
we have medical malpractice
Again,

YEAH.
...
MEISHIN ?!
...a medical error was covered up for approximately 2 months...
ISN'T THAT YOUR HOSPITAL, TAKE-CHAN?!
WHAT A HORRIBLE DOCTOR, LEAVING A NEEDLE BEHIND IN A PATIENT!
WHAT A HORRIBLE MISTAKE. THIS DR. KODAMA...
HORRIBLE
YEAH.

IS HE A DOCTOR YOU KNOW ..?
COME TO THINK OF IT, HASN'T SOMEONE CALLED KODAMA BEEN SENDING US NEW YEAR'S DAY CARDS EVERY YEAR?

HMM?
NO CLUE, I'VE NEVER EVEN SPOKEN TO HIM
...

WAS REPORTED AS BEING SOLELY DR. KODAMA'S RESPONSIBILITY
THIS INCIDENT...

HE NEVER RETURNED TO MEISHIN.
AND,
DR. KODAMA WAS TRIED BY THE ETHICS COMMITTEE AND RELIEVED OF HIS LICENSE.

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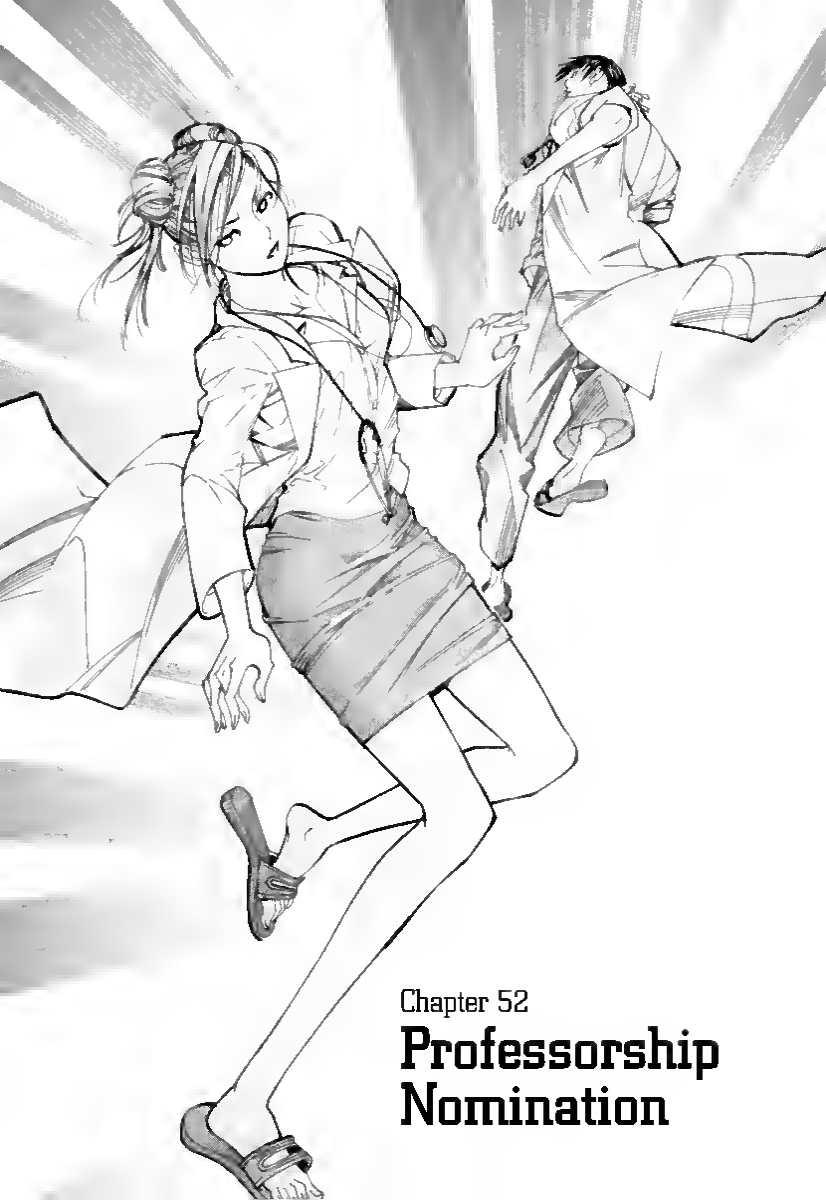
Team Medical Dragon

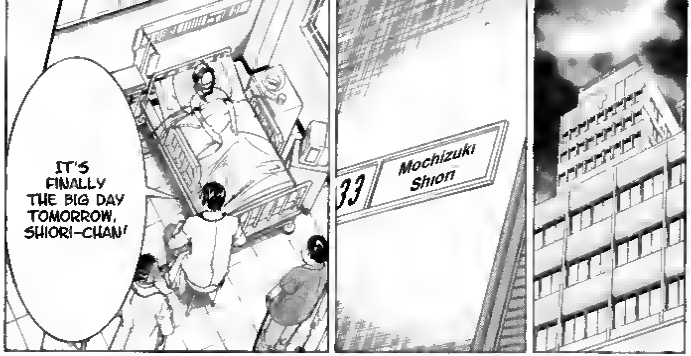
By Akira Nagai & Taro Nogizaka

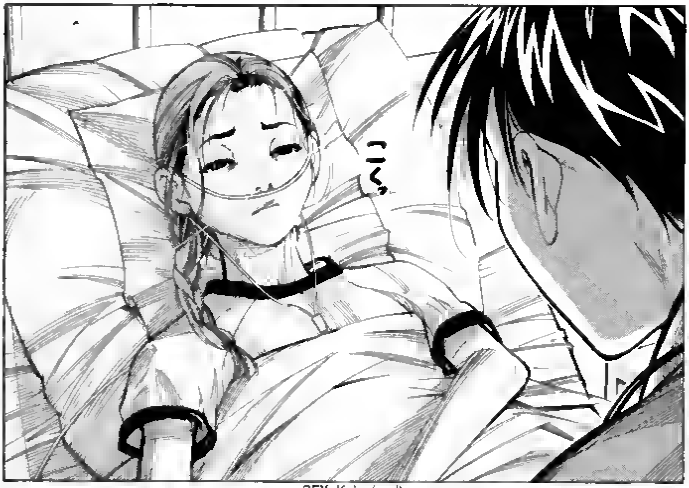
Chapter 51



Chapter 52

Professorship Nomination





2 SFX Koku (nod)

THE BATISTA...
WILL SUCCEED!
EXCUSE ME...
BUT WILL IT REALLY WORK OUT OK?
SFX: Patan (shut)
THE OTHER ONE...
THE LAST PATIENT WHO HAD THE BATISTA BEFORE SHIORI... HOW IS SHE DOING?
*CCU = Cardiac Care Unit: an intensive care unit specializing in cardiac care

...I SEE.
SFX: Ho (sigh)
THE PATIENT...
WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE CCU* YESTERDAY. SHE'S IN STABLE CONDITION.
IN TOMOR-ROW'S OPERATION
WE'LL DO OUR BEST

TRUST OUR WORK.
PLEASE TRUST US.

Professor's Office

WHO TOOK OUT THE NEEDLE KODAMA-KUN LEFT BEHIND IN A PATIENT.
SO, KATOU-CHAN, I HEARD THAT ASADA-KUN WAS THE ONE...

...YES.
HE KEEPS PUTTING ME IN HIS DEBT
I'LL HAVE TO THANK HIM.
...YES.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO COVER IT UP... THANKS TO HIM, WHAT A SCANDAL!
KODAMA-KUN REALLY SHOULD'VE INFORMED ME ABOUT HIS MISTAKE
OF COURSE YOU'D HAVE ALREADY KNOWN!
WHAT A SHAMELESS LIE...

YOU'RE THE KING OF THE HILL IN THE DEPARTMENT!
YOU HOLD ALL THE POWER...
CLINICAL MEDICINE,
RE-SEARCH,
AND EDUCA-TION--

I WONDER WHAT'S CAUSING THEM... HMM? I WONDER WHAT THE CAUSE COULD BE...
I WONDER WHY THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY SCANDALS LATELY.

IT'S BECAUSE POWER THAT GOES UNCHECKED...
THAT'S OBVIOUS.
...

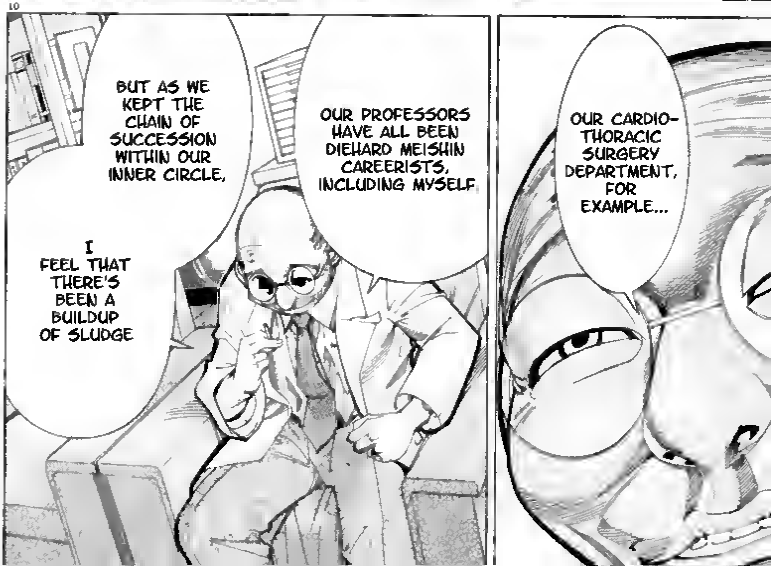
WILL BECOME CORRUPT!
MEDICINE HAS BEEN TARGETED BY THE MEDIA IN THE PAST,
BUT I HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED SUCH SKEPTICISM BEFORE.

IT APPEARS THAT IT WILL NO LONGER BE SUFFICIENT...
TO LIE LOW AND WAIT FOR THE STORM TO PASS...
SO,
YOU SEE...

...I'VE DECIDED...
TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT SYSTEM!
!!

I HAD NO IDE...
THAT YOU HAD SUCH IDEAS IN MIND.
...?!
GIVEN WHAT AN INTELLIGENT PERSON YOU ARE,
WEREN'T YOU THINKING ABOUT CHANGE LONG BEFORE I DID, KATOU-CHAN?
NO,
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR TOO PRESUMP-TUOUS OF ME...!
IN ANY CASE, I'D LIKE TO SIGNAL TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
THAT I'M SERIOUS ABOUT REFORM.
...A BRILLIANT MOVE!

HE HASN'T CLAWED HIS WAY TO THE TOP FOR NOTHING!
HE HAS AN IMPECCABLE KNACK FOR READING THE SITUATION!
HE HAS REALIZED THAT SIMPLY MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO...
WILL LEAD TO EXTERNAL CRITICISM AND ROB HIM OF HIS POWER.


OUR CARDIO-THORACIC SURGERY DEPARTMENT, FOR EXAMPLE...
OUR PROFESSORS HAVE ALL BEEN DIEHARD MEISHIN CAREERISTS, INCLUDING MYSELF.
BUT AS WE KEPT THE CHAIN OF SUCCESSION WITHIN OUR INNER CIRCLE,
I FEEL THAT THERE'S BEEN A BUILDUP OF SLUDGE

I FEEL THAT IT IS TIME FOR ME...
TO REPLACE THE STAGNANT BLOOD
MAYBE THE SLUDGE IS CLOGGING THE BLOOD-STREAM...
AND CAUSING A STROKE IN THE SYSTEM...
WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS MAN GETTING AT?

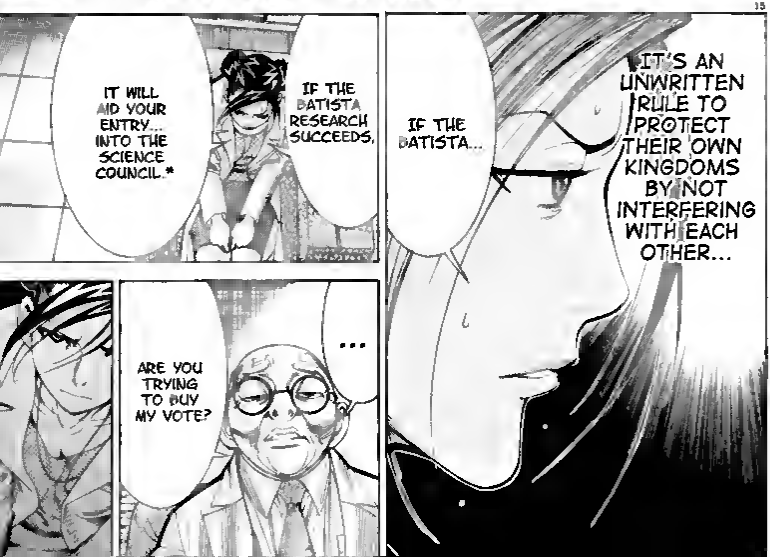
SO, ABOUT THE NEXT ROUND OF ELECTIONS FOLLOWING MY RETIREMENT...
I'M SURE YOU FULLY INTEND TO RUN FOR THE POSITION, BUT...
!
IT...
IT REALLY BREAKS MY HEART...

IT REALLY BREAKS MY HEART TO SAY THIS...!
BUT, I HAVE DECIDED...
NOT TO RECOMMEND YOU FOR THE POSITION.

WHAT...
BECAUSE, YOU SEE,
THE SELECTION PROCESS IS TECHNICALLY OPEN TO OUTSIDE CANDIDATES
WE SHOULD CHANGE HOW ALL THAT'S BECOME A FACADE. DON'T YOU AGREE?
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SOLICIT CANDIDATES FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES, TOO!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ..?!

YOU NEED AT LEAST TWO RECOMMEN-DATIONS FROM THE FACULTY MEMBERS HERE BEFORE YOU CAN APPLY FOR A PROFESSORSHIP!
IF YOU WILL NOT GRANT ME YOUR RECOMMENDATION, I... CAN'T EVEN DO THAT!

AS IF!
OH, PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT...
IF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE THE REAL DEAL, I'M SURE OTHER PROFESSORS WILL RECOMMEND YOU.
...RIGHT?
IN UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS,
IT IS THE GREATEST TABOO FOR PROFESSORS TO RECOMMEND ANYONE...
WHO COULD NOT EVEN GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THEIR OWN DEPARTMENT'S PROFESSOR!


IT'S AN UNWRITTEN RULE TO PROTECT THEIR OWN KINGDOMS BY NOT INTERFERING WITH EACH OTHER...
IF THE BATISTA...
IF THE BATISTA RESEARCH SUCCEEDS,
IT WILL AID YOUR ENTRY... INTO THE SCIENCE COUNCIL.*
...
ARE YOU TRYING TO BUY MY VOTE?

*The Science Council is an organization whose membership status is now thought of as being the feather in any scholar's cap, resulting in backstabbing, negotiations and records fabrications

IT'S EXACTLY THAT KIND OF THINKING...
THAT'S CAUSING THE PROBLEMS IN UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS RIGHT NOW!
PROFES-SORS
SHOULD BE CHOSEN BASED ON TRUE MERIT AND INTEGRITY
YOU SHOULD LISTEN MORE CLOSELY
TO THE POWERLESS PATIENTS WHO SIMPLY DESIRE PROPER MEDICAL CARE

I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR RAISING MY VOICE.
AH,
HOW CAN YOU DARE SAY THAT?
...YOU...
I WILL CHOOSE THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE WITHOUT ANY HESITATION.. I WILL.
IT'S JUST THAT IF I HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MY PERSONAL GLORY AND THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE,
SFX Fuu (exhale)
17
BESIDES,
ABOUT THAT BATISTA...
YOU'D CUT OFF THE BATISTA..?
YOU'D ..
...

IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S NO WAY TO WIN...
AGAINST NORTH JAPAN UNIVERSITY
YESTER-DAY,
THEY SUCCEEDED IN THEIR SECOND BATISTA OPERATION
WHAT?
THEY'RE MAKING PROG-RESS
FAR MORE RAPIDLY THAN I THOUGHT...!
...
A THIRD OPERATION IS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK
...

NORTH JAPAN UNIVERSITY
KIRISHIMA GUNJI!!
WE REALLY CAN'T CATCH UP AT THIS RATE...
BUT,
A PUBLICATION REQUIRES APPROXIMATELY 10 CASE STUDIES
SFX Tsun (poking)
THIS IS A CONSEQUENCE OF ASADA'S FREQUENT DISREGARD FOR AUTHORITY...
THIS...

THIS IS...
AND OF NOGUCHI'S DISILLUSIONMENT OVER MY RESEARCH, NOW SEEMINGLY DOOMED TO FAILURE...

THIS FLOWER
WOULD LOOK GREAT ON YOU
...A DEATH SENTENCE!

I'LL NEED ONLY 3 CASES TO PUBLISH!
IF I CAN FIND A WAY TO DETECT THEM,
...THE AFFLICTED CELLS!
SFX: Su (slide)
FACE NORTH JAPAN UNIVERSITY WITH QUALITY OVER QUANTITY!
WE'LL ...
SFX: Kui tsu
SFX: Poki (snap)
I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PROFESSOR-SHIP...
...
I'LL REIN IN DR. ASADA AS WELL...

I WILL RETURN
AFTER I HAVE RESULTS

THE DAY HAS COME
FINALLY,
SFX Kacha (open)
SHH!
HE'S DOING MENTAL IMAGERY TRAINING!
GOOD—

THE
BATISTA,

CASE
NO. 2!

I WILL LOSE MY TICKET TO THE PROFESSOR-SHIP
BUT IF I DON'T MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE,
TO BE QUITE HONEST, IT'S AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM! NOT EVEN A YEAR OR TWO WILL BE ENOUGH TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE
DISCOVER-ING A DETECTION METHOD FOR AFFLICTED CELLS
I MUST GLEAN CLUES FROM TODAY'S SURGERY!
NO MATTER HOW SMALL,
HEART!
FROM THIS GIRL'S...

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Team Medical Dragon

By Akira Nagai & Taro Nogizaka

Chapter 52

Chapter 53

Pre-Op Exam

2

SFX Kon (knocking)

SFX Kacha (open)

CT
BUT THE PATIENT~ WAS GONE~
I'D GONE OVER TO CHECK IF SHE HAS ANY ALLERGIES AND TO PUT HER UNDER~
THAT'S WHAT!
..IS NOT IN HER ROOM..
SFX gaba (grab)
3
WHY WASN'T I TOLD ABOUT THIS, ASADA?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE DOING A CT SCAN THE DAY OF SURGERY!
SO~ WHEN I ASKED THE NURSE WHAT'S UP~ SHE SAID THE PATIENT'S BEEN TAKEN TO THE CT ROOM
SFX ka (tappun))

WHO?!
WHO HAD THE PATIENT TAKEN TO THE CT ROOM?!
I DIDN'T ORDER THAT SCAN

IT WAS...

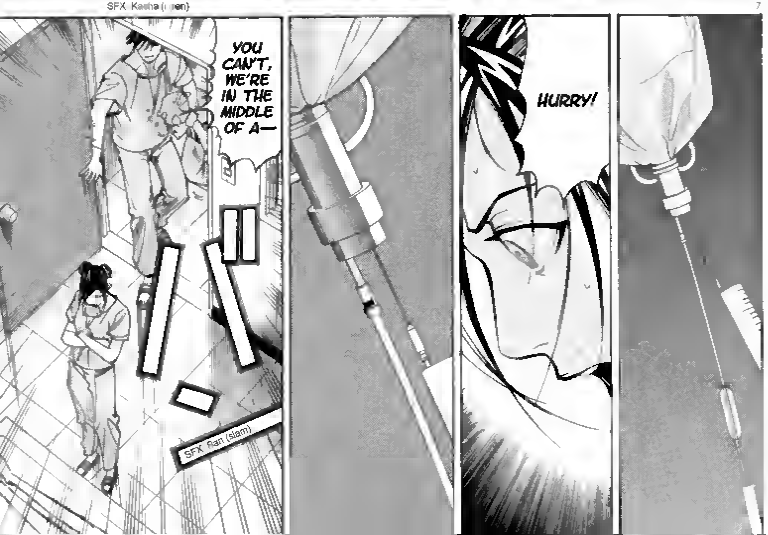
APPARENTLY...
IT WAS DR KATOU
...OK.
INJECT THE D-CM11 INTO HER IV!
WE'RE READY...

IT WAS INTENDED TO EVALUATE MYOCARDIAL DAMAGE IN PATIENTS WITH ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE...
IT IS A CT CONTRAST AGENT WITH SPECIFICITY FOR MYOCARDIAL SYMPATHETIC NEURONS
IS AN EXPERIMENTAL DRUG GRANTED IND* STATUS THAT WAS CO-DEVELOPED BY MEISHIN AND ISHIDA PHARMACEUTICALS 6 YEARS AGO
D-CM11...

*IND (Investigational New Drug) = status granted to experimental new drugs which permits human clinical trials

IF IT WORKED FOR DOGS...
IT WAS FOUND THAT D-CM11 ALSO TARGETED AFFLICTED CELLS IN PATIENTS WITH DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY...!
IN ANIMAL TRIALS,

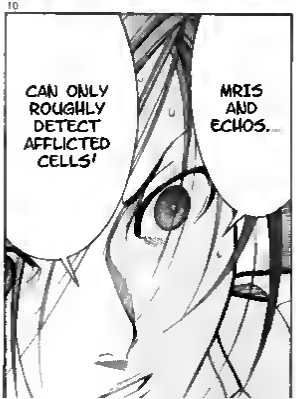
...IT MUST WORK FOR HUMANS!
I MUST WIN
AGAINST NORTH JAPAN'S KIRISHIMA
コン
コン
SFX: K T (ki... dang)
SFX: Kasha (...sen)


YOU CAN'T, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A—
SFX: Ran (Slam)
HURRY!

DOC KATOU?
DIDN'T WE SAY WE DON'T NEED A TEST,
!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE ELSE OUT!
ARASE!
THERE'S NO TIME, PUT HER UNDER NOW
...!
FOR REAL?
LIE BACK AND RELAX!
OH, IT'S NOTHING, SHIORI!
DOC KATOU,
YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A CHAT OVER HERE

*Phase II trials are ina s conducted using smal patient groups to assess the experimental drug's efficacy and poss ble side effects

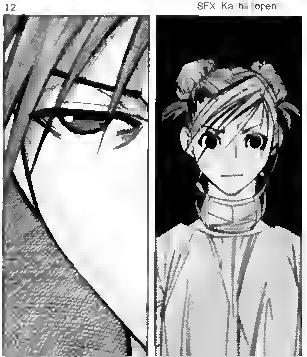


SOMETHING NEW...
IF WE DON'T "BOTHER" TO DO SOME-THING...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IN OUR RESEARCH!
WE WON'T MAKE A BREAK-THROUGH.
THAT'S WHY NEITHER OF US BOTHERED TO USE IT!
D-CM11 IS NO BETTER IN TERMS OF PRECISION!
IF WE COULD APPLY THE FINDINGS TO HUMANS...
DEPENDING ON THE INSTITUTION, THE ANIMAL TRIALS WENT FINE!

SFX: Sh (shh)

SFX: Shi (shhhhhh)

EVEN SUPPOSING THAT YOUR IDEA HAS MERIT,
WE WON'T HAVE A CLUE WHETHER IT CAN BE USED IN THE FIELD UNTIL WE COLLECT A TRUCKLOAD OF DATA
FURTHER-MORE
IT'S HARDLY SOMETHING TO TEST ON SHIORI...
WHEN SHE'S SCHEDULED FOR SURGERY TODAY, RIGHT NOW



SFX Ka hi lopen

HEY!
SFX Batan (slam)
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU...?
PROFESSOR NOGUCHI...
TOLD ME THAT HE WON'T BACK ME IN THE PROFESSORSHIP ELECTIONS.!

I WON'T EVEN HAVE THE CHANCE...
TO RUN FOR THE POSITION!
THAT'S WHY...
I HAVE TO GET BIG RESULTS...
AND REGAIN NOGUCHI'S FAVOR.!

KATOU,
THAT OLD GEEZER...
WON'T BE BACKING YOU NOW, NO MATTER WHAT...
HUH?

HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO RUN HIS MOUTH OUT OF ANGER...
JUST TO MAKE ENEMIES.
IF HE SAID IT THAT CLEARLY IN FRONT OF YOU...

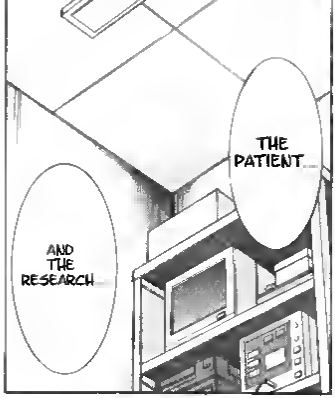
...IT MEANS HE'S ALREADY FOUND ANOTHER CANDIDATE
AND PROMISED TO BACK HIM

SFX: Kata (creak)
...
SO IT'S...
KE KE KE.
HE'S RIGHT!
YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP, BEANPOLE!

...OVER...

HEY,
IT'S NOT OVER YET.
I'M SURE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY!
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO GIVE UP—
WHAT ELSE?!

YOU'RE LUCKY.
YOU CAN ALWAYS FOCUS ON THE PATIENT.
HAVE YOU.


THE PATIENT...
AND THE RESEARCH...

HAVE YOU THOUGHT AT ALL ABOUT HOW MUCH I'VE GONE THROUGH...
HOW MUCH YOU'VE PUT ME THROUGH
EVER SINCE I MET YOU?

I'VE BEEN DOING MY BEST...
TO NEGLECT NEITHER.

BUT I'M AT MY LIMIT.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO KEEP THE TWO BALANCED INSIDE,
YOU ALWAYS DISRUPT IT.

IT'S DRIVING ME INSANE!

HEY...

DON'T BE SO CRUEL TO ME,
OK?

...
WELL, I'M SURPRISED.

YOU'RE NOT SO BAD...
WHEN YOU ACT LIKE A WOMAN
22
SFX: Gan (bang)
WHADDAYA GONNA DO~?
ARE YOU GONNA CONTINUE WITH THE TEST FOR YOUR RESEARCH~?
OW!
...

THERE WILL BE NO TEST!
TAKE THE PATIENT TO THE O.R.!
SFX: Su (rustle)
SFX: Patan (shut)
パタン
WHAT'D YOU SAY TO DR. KATOU?
I HEARD YOU!
Surgical Loupes is a magnifying glass set in an eyepiece, worn during surgery.
23
I'M GOING TO TELL MIKI!
IDYUUIN!
YES?!
SURGICAL LOUPES *
GET YOURS READY, TOO.
SFX: K (tweak)

BE PREPARED TO STAND IN FOR HER
KATOU..
MAY BE OF NO USE TODAY
GAH?!
GOOD MORNING

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Team Medical Dragon

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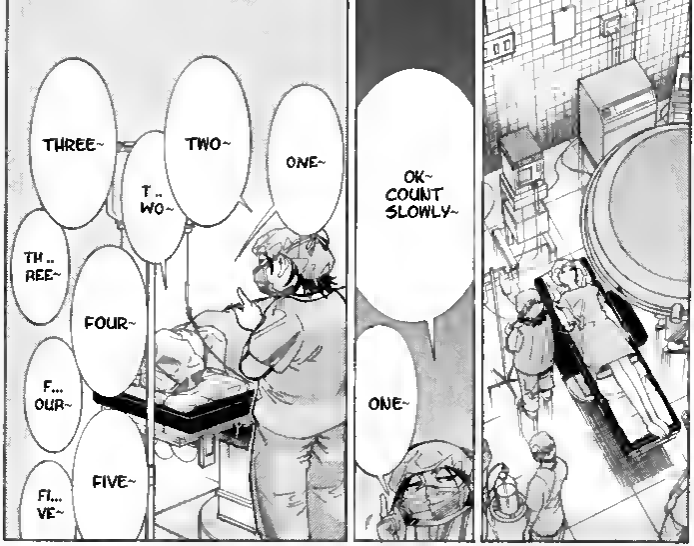
Chapter 53

Chapter 54

Palpation

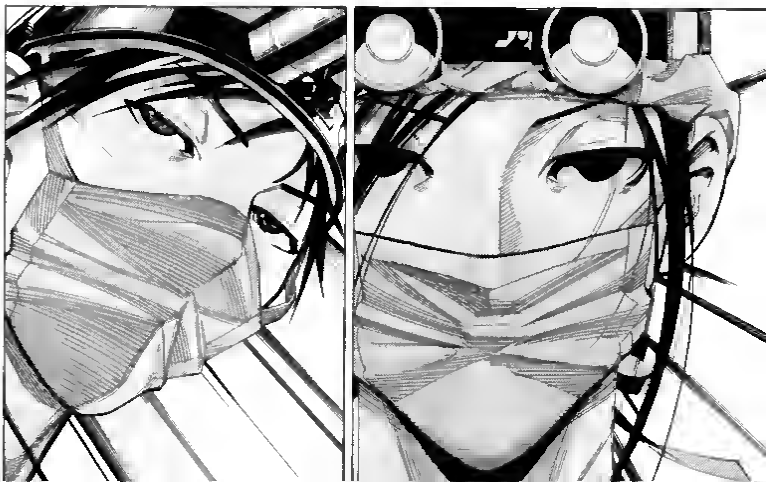

THREE~
TWO~
ONE~
T.. WO~
TH.. REE~
FOUR~
F... OUR~
FIVE~
FI... VE~
OK~ COUNT SLOWLY~
ONE~

S... IX...
SIX~

OK,
SHE'S UNDER.
SEVEN~

RIGHT
UM... YOU'RE THE CLINICAL TECHNICIAN, RIGHT?
OK, INTUBATING-
HEY, HOLD HER HEAD STEADY- OK?
THE TECHNICIAN HAD TO RUN TO THE BATHROOM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST OPERATION...
HUH?
ARE YOU DOING OK?
HOW'S YOUR STOMACH...?

SFX: Kuta (cracking)



HEY,
IF YOU STRIKE A POSE WITH THOSE SEXY LEGS OF YOURS...
AND ORDER THEM TO BACK YOU IN AN IMPERIOUS VOICE,
I BET YOU CAN CONVINCE TWO GEEZERS WHO HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR THAT SORT OF THING.
OH, KITOU MIGHT BE PRETTY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE DRAGON LADY TYPE, TOO.
BASICALLY, YOU CAN RUN IN THE ELECTION AS LONG AS YOU GET RECS FROM TWO PROFS HERE, RIGHT?

SFX: Ka (step)

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME RELAX SOMEHOW...
BECAUSE THE OPERATION'S ABOUT TO START?

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
HUH?
IT'S ANNOYING HOW YOU ONLY GET ALL CONSIDERATE WHEN IT COMES TO SURGERY...
YOU COULDN'T EVEN MAKE MIKI HAPPY
YOU'RE HOPELESS, THOUGH...
EVERY-THING! TOP AND BOTTOM!
"EVERY-THING"? HOW MUCH?
I HEARD EVERY-THING FROM MIKI.
...

SFX Fu sm

WAS MY GREATEST MISTAKE
DRAWING A JOKER CARD LIKE YOU...

I SHOULD'VE DONE WHAT KIRISHIMA DID,
PICKING ONLY PATIENTS IN GOOD CONDITION AND OPERATED ON THEM MYSELF!
BUT,
YOU CHOSE NOT TO
...
EITHER WAY,
THE TEAM WILL BE DISBANDED SOONER OR LATER!
I WONDER.
WHERE EVERYONE WILL BE SENT OFF TO

SO YOU KNOW!
WELL, HE'S ALREADY ONLY A HAIR'S BREADTH AWAY FROM GETTING SENT OFF AS SOON AS A POST OPENS, ANYWAY.
WILL PROBABLY GET DEMOTED TO BEING THE CARDIOVASCULAR INTERNAL MEDICINE DEPARTMENT CHIEF AT A SMALL SUBSIDIARY HOSPITAL
POOR FUJIYOSHI...

MIKI'LL BE FINE!
THEY'RE SHORT ON NURSES EVERY-WHERE
IT MIGHT EVEN BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO CALL HIS DAUGHTER OVER AND LIVE TOGETHER
FUJIYOSHI'S BEEN PREPARED FOR A LONG TIME.
THAT'S SAD

AS FOR ARASE...
OH WELL, I ONLY KNOW THAT PUDGY MAN BECAUSE OF MONEY, ANYWAY...
THE ONE WHO DREW THE SHORTEST STRAW...
IS IDYUUIN

RIGHT NOW,
HE SEEMS TO BE TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SURGERY...
TO BE THINKING OF WHAT'S UP AHEAD...

I TOLD HIM
IF I CAN'T USE YOU TODAY AS FIRST ASSISTANT, HE GETS TO SUB
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
OF COURSE!
AHAHA
THAT EXPLAINS WHY HE'S PREOCCUPIED.

...

HE WON'T ESCAPE UNSCATHED.
IF HE'S SEEN AS BELONGING TO MY "FACTION"!

WHEN A NEW PROFESSOR ASSUMES HIS POSITION,
THE OPPOSING FACTION IS EXILED FROM THE UNIVERSITY.
THAT'S THE "CUSTOM" IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

WELL, DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN SHORT-STAFFED LATELY,
AND HE'S JUST A RESIDENT I'M SURE HE WON'T GET EXILED!

THEY'LL NEVER LET HIM OFF A LEASH TO DO ANYTHING OF CONSEQUENCE!
BUT...
AS FOR ME,
MY RESEARCH WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME,
AND I'LL GET SENT TO A NEW SATELLITE HOSPITAL, PROBABLY
AS FOR YOU..

I WONDER IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO BACK TO BEING MIKI'S KEPT MAN.
13
I KNOW...
EVEN IF THE REST OF US GET DESTROYED,
YOU'LL SURVIVE IN MEISHIN...

...AS THE ACE...
OF E.M.

PROFESSOR KITOU...
IS CALLING YOU
AT LEAST...

AT LEAST TAKE IJYUUIN OVER WITH YOU...
TO E.M.

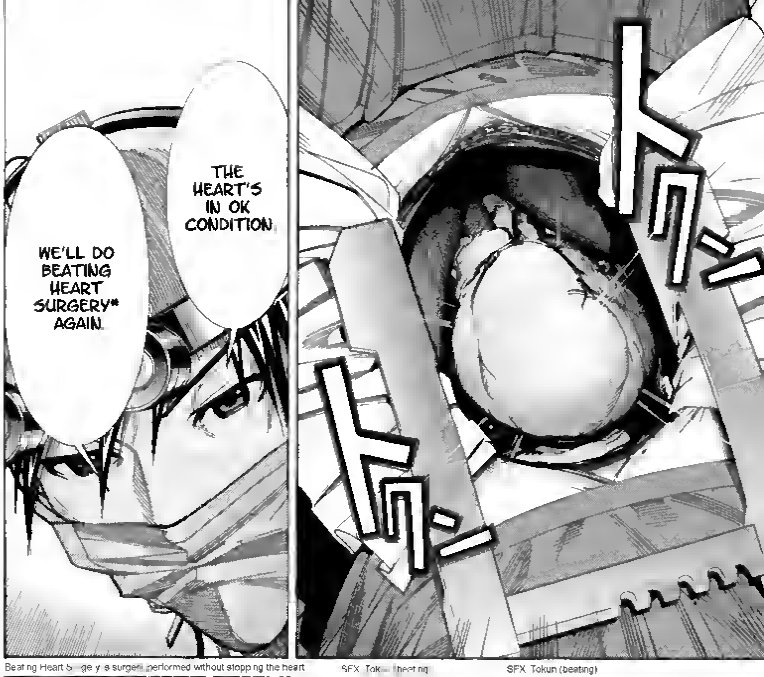
WAIT, KATOU...
MY TEAM'S GONNA GET EVEN STRONGER...
...DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THAT HAPPEN?

IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
YOU'RE THE ONE.

スッ
SFX: Su (step)
LET'S HURRY TO THE O.R
WHO PLANTED THE SEED.

...HE'S NOT HERE.
PROFESSOR NOGUCHI...
SCALPEL
HE MUST'VE HEARD ABOUT HOW THE LAST OPERATION WAS PLAGUED WITH PROBLEMS
AND PROFESSOR SOFUE, WHO HATES NOGUCHI
THE ONLY OBSERVERS ARE KITOU WITH HIS ASADA OBSESSION,

STRIKER.
SFX: Shuin (whirr)
SFX: Shuin (whirr)
OPENING CHEST.
シュイーン
シュイーン

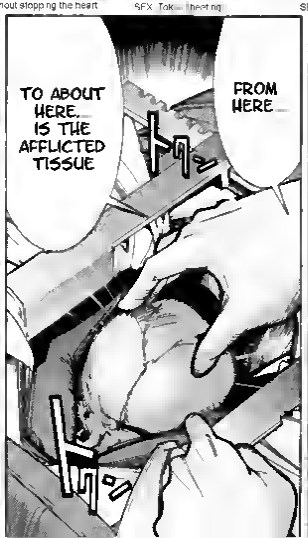


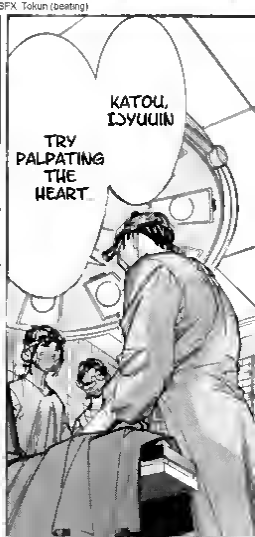
Beating Heart Surgery: a surgery performed without stopping the heart

SFX: Tokun (beating)

SFX: Tokun (beating)

SFX: Tokun (beating)



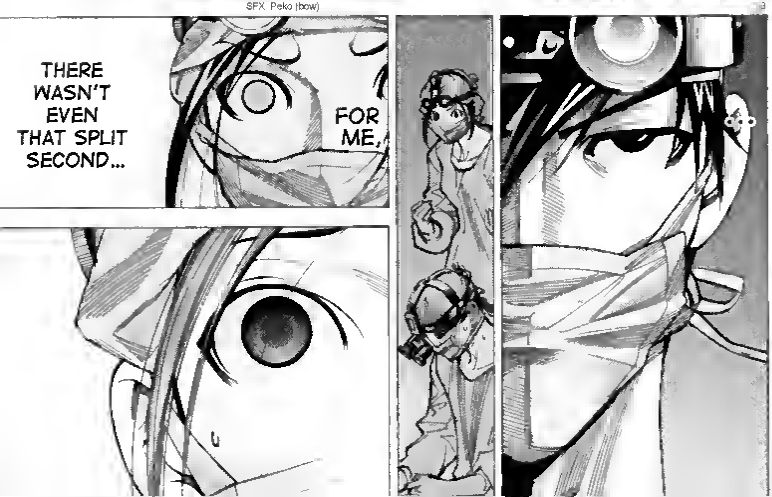


USE THE FLESHY PADS OF FINGERS YOU DON'T NORMALLY USE DAY TO DAY, LIKE THE RING AND LITTLE FINGERS,
AND MOVE THEM ACROSS IN PARALLEL
I STILL CAN'T TELL...!
YOUR TURN, IJYUUIN.
IN THE END,

I COULDN'T FEEL THE DIFFERENCE..

SFX: P ku...tw ch

IT JUST FELT DIFFERENT FOR A SPLIT SECOND
...UM, WELL
YOU CAN TELL,
I QUICKLY LOST THAT FEELING
BUT,
IJYUUIN?!
ペコ
I MIGHT'VE IMAGINED IT SORRY
SFX: Peko (bow)


THERE WASN'T EVEN THAT SPLIT SECOND...
FOR ME,
U

LITTLE BY LITTLE...
THIS "SEEDLING"...
IT'S GROWING...!
...!
IT WOULD'VE BEEN PRUNED!
IN THE OLD DEPARTMENT,
I DON'T WANT...
...
TO BE DESTROYED!
THIS SEEDLING...

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Team Medical Dragon

By Akira Nagai & Taro Nogizaka

Chapter 54

Chapter 55

Separation of Powers

COOPER
USE THE NET TO TURN THE HEART TOWARDS ME.
IDYUUIN!
SFX Tokun (beating)
OK!
SFX Tokun (beating)

WHO ALWAYS FEARED FAILURE AND KEPT GLANCING AT THE ATTENDING.
JUST UNTIL RECENTLY, YOU WERE A RUN-OF-THE-MILL, USELESS RESIDENT...
YOU'RE DEFINITELY A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON NOW!
IJYUUUIN...

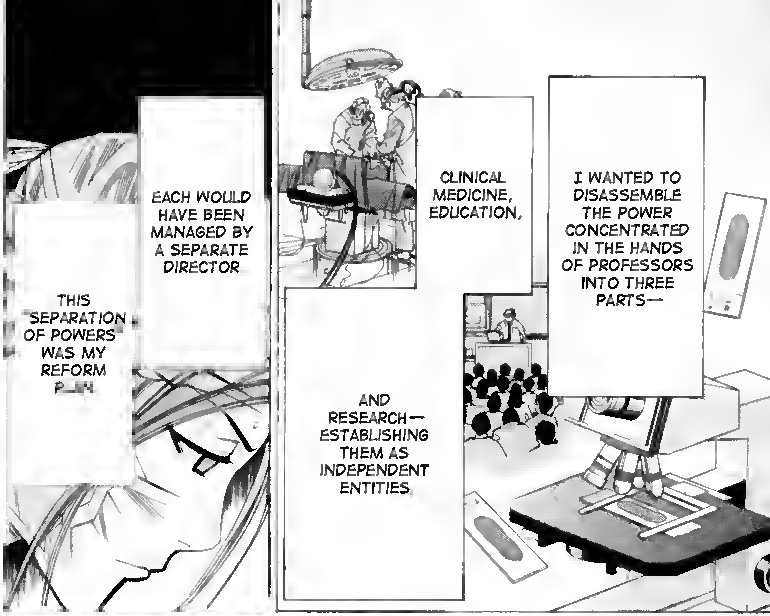
...

AND NOW YOU'VE LEARNED HOW TO PERFORM NEW TECHNIQUES AND TO BE FLEXIBLE TO CHANGES IN THE O.R.!
YOU'VE BEEN HONED BY ASADA ON THE JOB,

ATTENDING TO ONLY THE PATIENT'S CONDITION INSTEAD OF THE PATIENT AS A WHOLE.
ONCE THEIR SKILLS SLIGHTLY IMPROVE, SURGEONS TEND TO NARROW THEIR FOCUS,
AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

AND THAT...
NEVER FORGET THEIR PROFESSIONAL MINDSET; THEY LOOK NOT ONLY AT THE PATIENT'S CONDITION BUT ALSO AT THE PATIENT'S PERSONALITY AND LIFESTYLE
TRULY EXCEPTIONAL DOCTORS..

DR. FUJIYOSHI...!
YOU'VE LEARNED FROM THE BEST TEACHER YOU COULD HAVE,
ズッ
SFX: Jokin (grip)
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF REFORM I WAS PLANNING?
DO YOU KNOW?
HEY...


I WANTED TO DISASSEMBLE THE POWER CONCENTRATED IN THE HANDS OF PROFESSORS INTO THREE PARTS—
CLINICAL MEDICINE, EDUCATION,
AND RESEARCH— ESTABLISHING THEM AS INDEPENDENT ENTITIES.
EACH WOULD HAVE BEEN MANAGED BY A SEPARATE DIRECTOR.
THIS "SEPARATION OF POWERS" WAS MY REFORM PLAN.

BY ALLOWING DOCTORS TO SELECT THE SUBFIELD OF THEIR CHOOSING,
THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL CARE WOULD HAVE GONE UP FOR CERTAIN
THOSE WITH TALENT...
WOULD HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO GROW WITHOUT GETTING BURIED BY THE SYSTEM..

THAT IDEAL...
HAS BEEN GIVEN LIFE...
IN THIS TEAM!

FOR CLINICAL MEDICINE, THERE'S ASADA.
FOR EDUCATION, THERE'S FUJIYOSHI.

THERE'S ME!
AND FOR RESEARCH...
YOU...
ARE NO GENIUS LIKE ASADA.
EVEN THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO FEEL THE AFFLICTED TISSUE...
MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE YOU ARE STILL INEXPERIENCED AND HAVE NO BIAS.
AL-THOUGH YOU HAVE YOUR MERITS,
YOU'RE AN AVERAGE RESIDENT.

WHAT CAN I DO TO SAVE THIS TEAM?
RIGHT NOW...
ASADA'S BATISTA TEAM HAS NURTURED YOUR POTENTIAL!
AND YET...
EVEN I WILL SOON BE SET ON FIRE AND GO DOWN IN FLAMES...
THERE'S NOTHING

EVEN IF I WILL TURN TO ASH,
BUT...
I MUST FIND A WAY...
TO SAVE THIS TEAM!

HMPH!
I GUESS YOU'VE REGAINED FOCUS,
...
DOC KATOU.
DON'T WASTE TIME WITH SMALL TALK,
AND KEEP WORKING YOUR HANDS
SEEZ..
YOU'RE SO MEAN.
BUT...
THAT SUITS YOU MORE.
IT'S MORE LIKE YOU.

THE CARDIAC MUSCLE'S LOOKING PALE
SEEMS TO BE A BLEED SOMEWHERE...
YEAH.
スッ
HM?
CHECK WHERE THE BLEEDING'S COMING FROM
ISYUUIN!
HURRY, ISYUUIN!

I'LL CHECK!
RIGHT!
...
I KNOW THAT, JEEZ!
WHAT IF THE PATIENT'S CONDITION SUDDENLY CHANGES?!
HEY, HURRY UP!
I DON'T SEE ANY-THING
BLEED-ING...?

*ε-Aminocaproic Acid is an agent used to stop bleeding.

SFX: Kuia (cracking)

NOT YET...
WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
SFX: Shii (shh)
15
DR IDYUUIN

OH!

THE SOURCE OF THE BLEEDING .
ISN'T NECESSARILY LIMITED TO THE STERILE OPERATING FIELD!

THE BLEEDING'S COMING FROM THE UTERUS!
O.R. NURSE! WHAT'S THE VOLUME?
ABOUT 100CC!
I-YUUIN,
WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT?
HUH?
100CC!
THAT'S NOT NORMAL!

WE HAVE A SAYING, "WHEN YOU SEE A WOMAN, FIRST SUSPECT PREGNANCY!"
LISTEN!
OH! THAT REMINDS ME!
THE ATTENDING IN THE ROTATION SAID...
BLEEDING FROM THE UTERUS?!
I SHOULD'VE TAKEN THE GYNECOLOGY ROTATION MORE SERIOUSLY!
SUSPECT...
PREGNANCY!

18 *Oxytocin is an agent which causes the uterus to contract and is used to stop postpartum bleeding.

SFX: Do (roar)

GYAHAHAHAHA!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BLEEDING AFTER CHILDBIRTH! WHERE'S THE BABY?!
THIS IS GETTING RECORDED, RIGHT?!
LET ME MAKE A COPY OF THIS PART LATER, OK?!
DON'T LET KATOU FIND OUT
SFX: Ku (chuckle)
Top SFX: Hi (he) Bottom SFX: Koku (nod)
DID YOU TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS PATIENT'S FILE?
ISYUUIN.
OH!
*Secondary Amenorrhea: a condition in which women who have previously started menstruating stop menstruating for more than 6 months
HER MENSTRUAL CYCLE STOPPED 6 MONTHS AGO DUE TO PRE-OP STRESS!
IN OTHER WORDS SHE HAD SECONDARY AMENORRHEA*!
BUT NOW...

...
SFX: Niko (smile)
THEY ALL...
SFX: N ya (eenng)
THE INVASIVE PROCEDURE OF THE SURGERY...
STIMULATED THE HYPOTHALAMUS AND THE PITUITARY GLAND IN THE STRESS PATHWAY AND TRIGGERED HER PERIOD!
THEY ALL KNEW.
THEY WERE TESTING ME!
DAMMIT ...!
THEY ALL SUCK!

GET IN THE WAY!
I WON'T LET ANYONE.
GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE,
AND GROW...

MENSTRUAL BLOOD DOES NOT CLOT WELL
OK!
HEY, INJECT AT 2CC PER MINUTE

WHATCHA LOOKIN' AT, FOUR-EYES?
?
*Excretion Rate is the rate at which pharmacological agents administered to patients are metabolized and excreted from cells of the body
I'VE ALREADY CALCULATED ITS EXCRETION RATE* SO THAT IT WON'T COMPETE WITH THE HEPARIN**
DON'T BOTHER WORRYING ABOUT CLOTS.
**Heparin is an agent that prevents blood from clotting in the heart lung machine
OH...
BUT WOULDN'T THAT INDUCE CLOTS IN THE BLOOD CIRCULATING THROUGH THE HEART LUNG MACHINE?
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE USING A COAGULANT RIGHT NOW.

IT'S THE CHANCE THAT A SUCK-ASS SURGEON LETS AN AIR BUBBLE INTO THE HEART CAVITY
YOU KNOW WHAT'S SCARIER THAN THIS BLEEDING?
I GUESS YOUR HIGH FEES AREN'T FOR SHOW.

EH?
RACCOON-EYES?
WHO YOU TALKING TO,
YOU GONNA BE OK WITH THE BEATING HEART THING? KEKEKE...
THE DRUGS ARE GONNA SPEED UP THE HEART A LIL'...

LET'S FINISH THIS!
IT JUST MEANS WE'RE FINALLY AT THE MAIN ACT!

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Translation:
runpsicat
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Typesetting:
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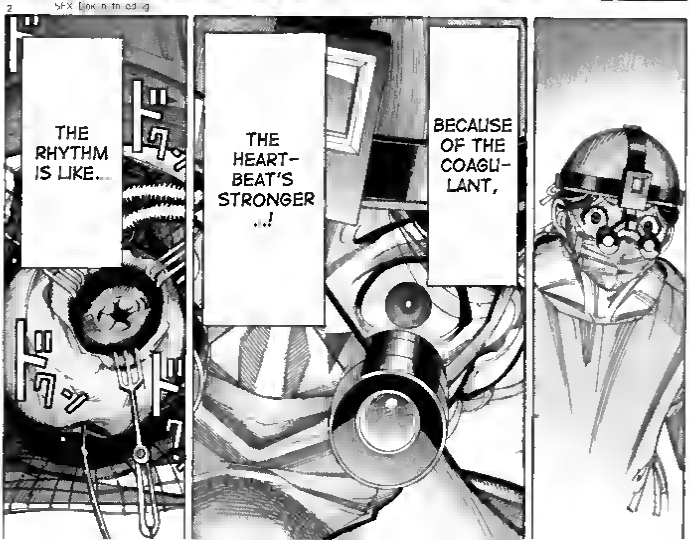
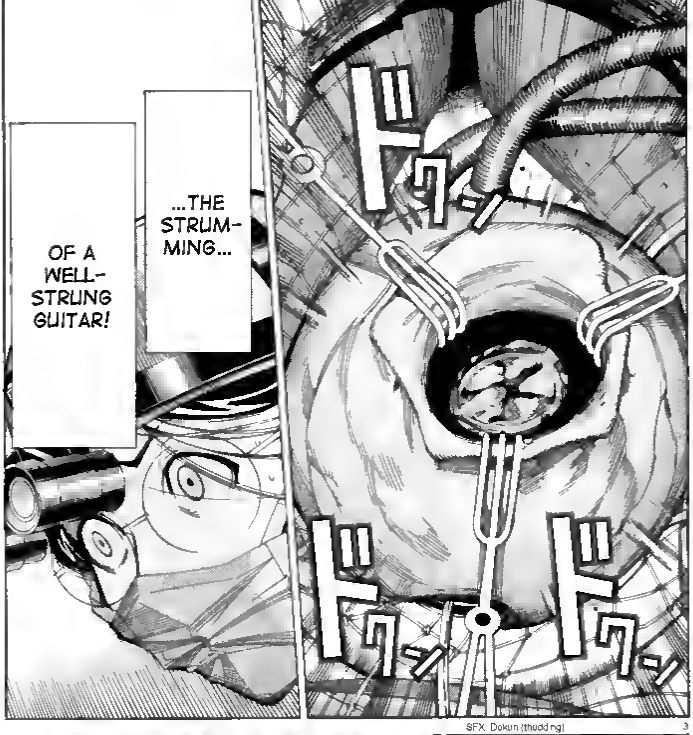
Chapter 55

Chapter 56
Revolutionary

2 SFX: Unknown sound





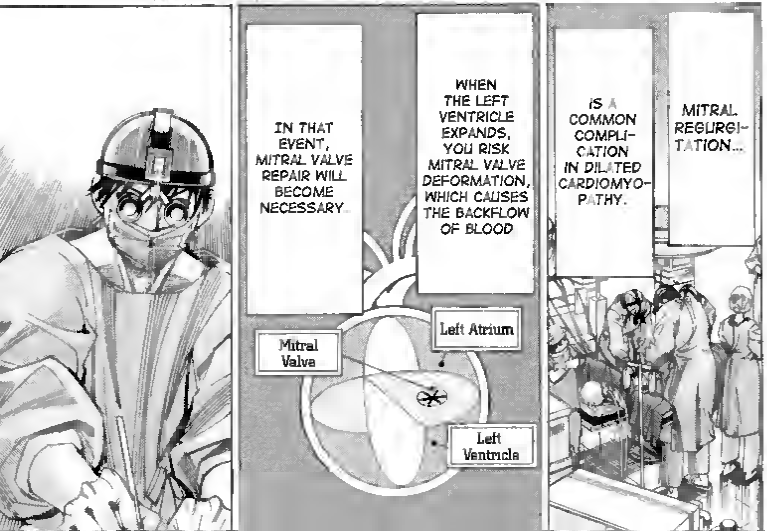
SFX: Dokun (thudding)

4

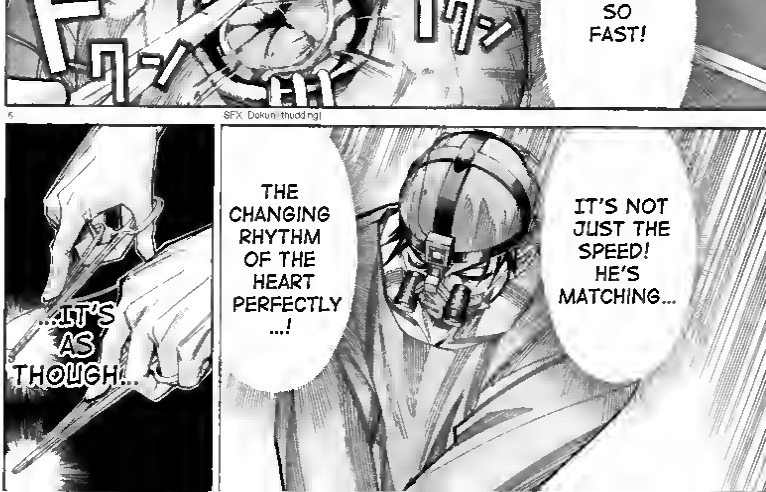
SFX: Pi (slice)

HE PUT HIS SCALPEL TO THE MITRAL VALVE*...!
WITHOUT ANY HESITATION,
IZUUIN
MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A GOOD LOOK THROUGH YOUR SURGICAL LOUPES!
O-OK!

*Mitral Valve is a valve with two (...) ...ntricle, located between the left atrium and the left ventricle


IN THAT EVENT, MITRAL VALVE REPAIR WILL BECOME NECESSARY.
WHEN THE LEFT VENTRICLE EXPANDS, YOU RISK MITRAL VALVE DEFORMATION, WHICH CAUSES THE BACKFLOW OF BLOOD
Mitral Valve
Left Atrium
Left Ventricle
IS A COMMON COMPLICATION IN DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY.
MITRAL REGURGITATION...

SFX Dokun (thudding)



IT MIGHT BE INCONSID-ERATE TO THE PATIENT TO SAY THIS,
BUT THERE'S NO MISTAKE!
THIS IS THE VIP SEAT...
FOR THE "SHOW"!

...THE NEEDLE AND THREAD...
ARE DANCING...

WELL,
I'M IN NO HURRY.
EVEN IF WE WERE TO FOLLOW THIS UP WITH A BYPASS,
WE'D STILL BE UNDER THE LAST OPERATION TIME BY A LONG SHOT...
HE'S AMAZING...!
AS I'D THOUGHT,
ARASE'S PRESENCE IS SIGNIFICANT

BY HAVING ARASE MONITOR THE PATIENT, ASADA CAN FULLY FOCUS ON THE OPERATION.
THAT MONSTER..
HAS BECOME UNTOUCHABLE.
ASADA...
I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU LEAD EM...
WITH ME FOCUSING ON INTERNAL POLITICS...

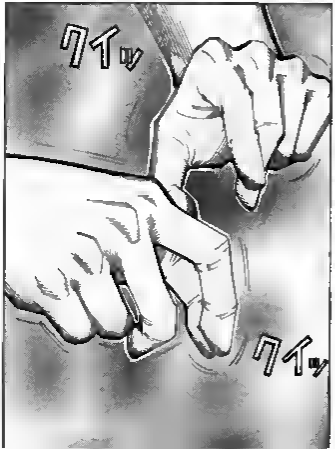
...IN ORDER TO BRING THE ULTIMATE REVOLUTION...
TO JAPANESE MEDICINE...
WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!
BUT...
WHEN I WATCH YOUR SURGERIES,
THE LINGERING THREAD TO THE O.R. I THOUGHT I'D CUT COMES BACK TO TUG AT ME...
DON'T..

*Valve Ring is a ring that is sutured to the valve's leaflets during valve repair in order to provide support

12

SFX: Ku- (twitch ng)

SFX: Ku- ng



SFX: Kunu (chuckle)

VALVE RING ATTACHED!
CLOSING UP EXCISION SITE OF AFFLICTED TISSUE!
HEY,
ASADA-KUN.

IN ORDER FOR THIS TINY TEAM...
TO BECOME THE HOPE OF FUTURE DOCTORS...

I NEED FROM YOU...
TWO THINGS.

FIRST, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THE SURGERY MAY BE, TAKE IT ON,
AND SAVE THE PATIENT,
NO MATTER WHAT!

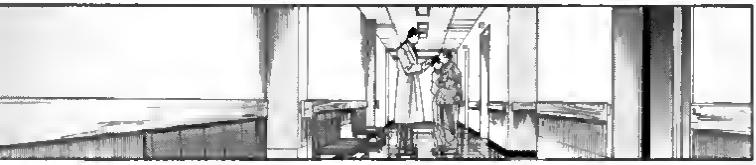
AND...
...
ONE MORE THING:

INCITE EVERY DOCTOR WHO SEES YOU OPERATE...
TO REACH FOR GREATER HEIGHTS!

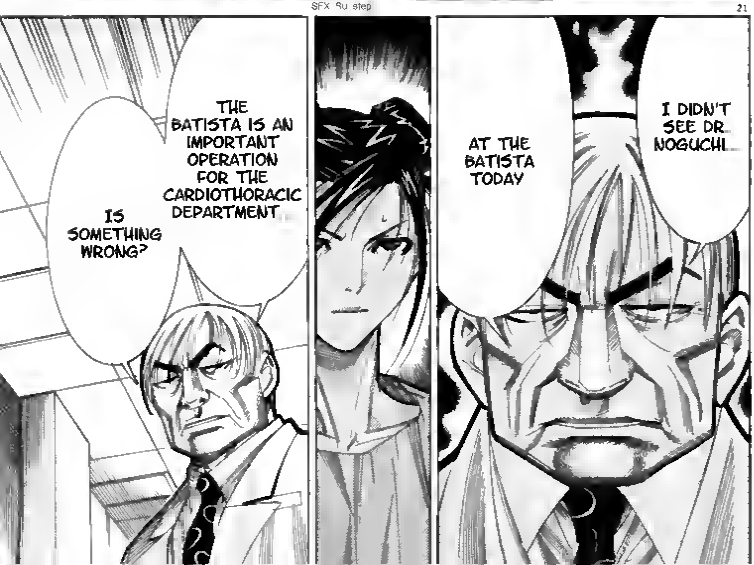
OPERATION COMPLETE.
YOU MUST REMAIN A PROVOCATIVE MAN!

CAN YOU HEAR ME, SHIORI-CHAN~?
IF YOU DO, SHOW ME— JUST BLINK.
AS FOR ME,
I WILL, FROM THIS MOMENT ON...

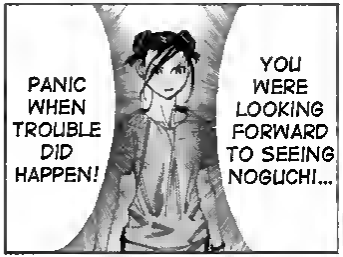
TO PROTECT THIS TEAM.
...BEGIN MY BATTLE...

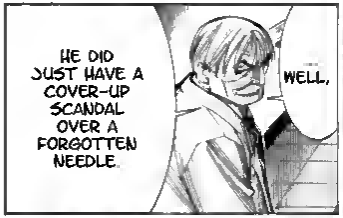


PROFESSOR SOFUE...!
SFX: ゆ step


I DIDN'T SEE DR. NOGUCHI...
AT THE BATISTA TODAY
THE BATISTA IS AN IMPORTANT OPERATION FOR THE CARDIOTHORACIC DEPARTMENT...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

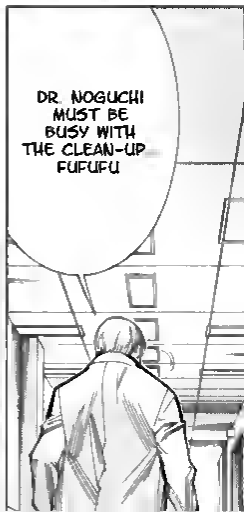
HMPH


YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING NOGUCHI...
PANIC WHEN TROUBLE DID HAPPEN!


WELL,
HE DID JUST HAVE A COVER-UP SCANDAL OVER A FORGOTTEN NEEDLE.

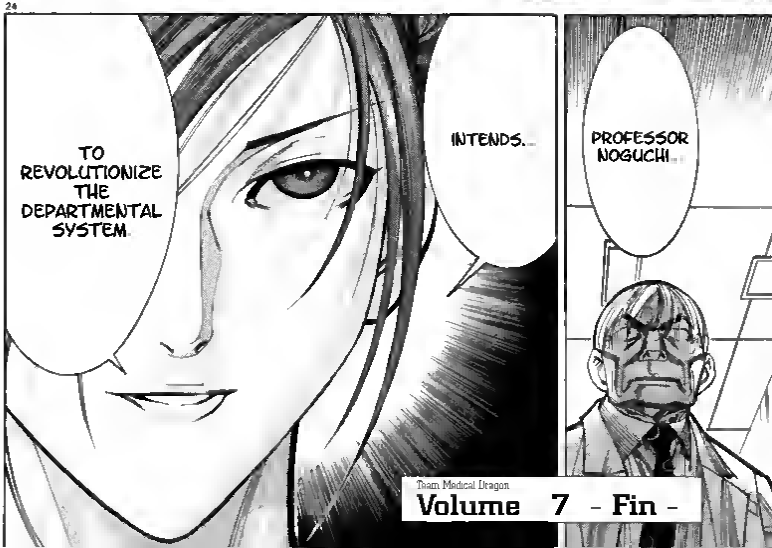
PERHAPS HE GOT SCARED AND RAN AWAY?
THINKING THAT DR ASADA OVER THERE WILL CAUSE TROUBLE AGAIN

PROFESSOR SOFUE


DR. NOGUCHI MUST BE BUSY WITH THE CLEAN-UP FUFUFU

PERHAPS YOU MISUNDER-STOOD?
DISCLOSING THE COVER-UP WAS PROFESSOR NOGUCHI'S PERSONAL DECISION.
...
WHAT?
!
THE EXTRACTION OF THE NEEDLE...
WAS CARRIED OUT BY DR. ASADA AT PROFESSOR NOGUCHI'S REQUEST.
YOU'RE WELL AWARE THAT IT'S NOT A SURGERY THAT CAN BE PERFORMED WITHOUT PERMISSION!

IN OUR DEPARTMENT, EVEN THE RESIDENTS KNOW THAT.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, IJYUUIN-KUN?
...
Y...
YES.
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?


PROFESSOR NOGUCHI...
INTENDS...
TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE DEPARTMENTAL SYSTEM.

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Team Medical Dragon

By Akira Nagai & Taro Nogizaka

Chapter 56